

Cairo urges EC role in PLO talks

CAIRO (R) — Egypt pressed European Community (EC) Commission President Gaston Thorn Monday to use what influence Western Europe has to try to persuade the United States to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), officials said. Mr. Thorn met President Hosni Mubarak, who tried without apparent success on a recent U.S. visit to get Washington to modify its refusal to deal with the PLO until the PLO formally recognises Israel. Mr. Thorn told reporters that Mr. Mubarak felt the Europeans should convince the United States that the PLO, as stated in the community's own Venice Declaration on the Middle East, should be a partner in efforts to end the Arab-Israeli dispute. In further comments to the official Middle East News Agency (MENA), Mr. Thorn was quoted as saying the Arab states must resolve their internal differences, adding Arab unity was essential to any Arab-Israeli solution.

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Hassan visits university faculty

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday met at the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan with the faculty dean and members of staff. Prince Hassan was briefed by the faculty dean on the faculty's experience since its establishment and its continuous attempts for qualitative development in the standard of its graduates. Attending the meeting was University President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Israel names Jewish mayor for Hebron

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli occupation authorities Monday appointed Azavir Shamsh as mayor of the occupied West Bank town of Hebron to succeed Mustafa Al Natsheh, whom the Israeli authorities discharged from duty last year. Appointment of Mr. Shamsh as a mayor of an Arab city was approved by Israeli Interior Minister Youssef Burg and supported by leaders of the Jewish Gush Emunim settlement movement.

Israel completes another settlement

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities Monday completed the construction of a new settlement in the occupied West Bank, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reaffirmed his government's policy of confiscating more Arab land to build more settlements. Mr. Shamir was replying to accusations by Ariel Sharon, ex-defence minister, who said Saturday that the Israeli government has stopped the settlement plan in the occupied territories. In a broadcast over Radio Israel Mr. Shamir said that construction of settlements is part of his government's policy.

Palestinian prisoners begin hunger strike

AMMAN (Petra) About 400 prisoners in the Israeli prison of Asqalan have started a hunger strike in protest against circumstances of their detention and as a gesture of their rejection of the inhuman Israeli practices against them, the French news agency, Agence France Presse, quoted some Palestinian sources in the West Bank as saying Monday. Three Arab detainees died in a one-month hunger strike in Nafha prison in south Palestine in July 1980.

Israel convicts 8 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli military court on Monday indicted eight West Bank Palestinians in connection with the fatal stabbing of a Jewish settler in Hebron last July.

French soldier killed in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A French soldier was killed Monday when a rocket hit his position close to the "green line" between the eastern and western sectors of Beirut, a French military spokesman said.

Lebanon scraps Israeli troop withdrawal pact

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon declared its May 17 agreement with Israel null and void Monday in a move which symbolised a dramatic policy shift towards the Arab World and cleared the last obstacle to fresh talks between warring Lebanese factions.

Cabinet Secretary Shafiq Mueinneh said the government, in a special session, had decided to go back on its endorsement of the accord and now considered it abrogated.

The move had been expected for weeks, especially in the three days since President Amin Gemayel returned from a crucial two-day summit in Damascus with Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad.

Syria had opposed the accord from the start but Mr. Gemayel only gave way after U.S. forces left Beirut in the wake of opposition militia victories against the Lebanese army last month.

The militia leaders, allies of Syria, had also been demanding the accord be scrapped as a condition for attending a second round of national reconciliation talks in Switzerland.

Official sources said the talks could reopen as early as this Wednesday or Thursday. Swiss officials said Lausanne was the venue.

The cabinet statement coupled the abrogation with an offer to prevent infiltration across the Israeli border once Israeli troops withdrew from the south of the country.

Israeli officials said Israel did not rule out the possibility of negotiating a new agreement to provide "security" arrangements for the frontier area.

As the abrogation was announced at the presidential palace outside the capital, sporadic shelling and sniping continued on the nearby mountain front between the army and Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) forces.

Military spokesmen for all the main groups said they thought an informal ceasefire was in force, but private radio stations reported constant violations in and around Beirut.

The Israeli agreement, signed when Israeli troops were still deployed at the edges of Beirut, provided for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, joint patrols in the south, some degree of normal relations and an end to the state of war.

The Lebanese cabinet and parliament endorsed it but President Gemayel did not sign it and the instruments of ratification were never exchanged.

Experts in international law say the accord never had legal force and the cabinet statement Monday was legally superfluous.

It also marked the deathknell of U.S. attempts to negotiate a political settlement in Lebanon. The United States signed the accord as a witness and invested large amounts of military and diplomatic capital in Mr. Gemayel's rule.

The last of some 1,300 American Marines pulled out of their Beirut airport compound a week ago Monday. Washington had already suspended shipments of heavy equipment to the Lebanese army and said its Middle East envoy would steer clear of Beirut on his next trip to the region.

The Marines were part of a four-nation Western force sent to Lebanon after the Israeli invasion with a mandate to help the government extend its authority throughout greater Beirut.

Only a 1,250-strong French contingent is still in place and they are expected to pull out within weeks. French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson arrived in Beirut Sunday to discuss details of the withdrawal.

After a second meeting with President Gemayel Monday the minister said France had not yet taken a final decision on the future of the force.

The French contingent took its 89th fatal casualty Monday when a rocket, apparently a stray, landed on one of its positions close to the "green line" dividing Beirut.

Even when the reconciliation conference resumes there is no guarantee the factional leaders can find a compromise between their widely differing views of what Lebanon should be like.

The opposition group, led by PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Shiite militia chief Nabih Berri, will be seeking a radical overhaul of the country's constitution, which they say gives too much power to the Maronite Christians.

The predominantly Christian right, led by former President Camille Chamoun, and the main "Lebanese Forces" militia, say the opposition is trying to extract unacceptable concessions from the rightists by force of arms.

Mr. Chamoun and "Lebanese Forces" commander Fadi Frem last week said they had serious reservations about the abrogation, which they fear could herald a period of "Syrian domination."

They said they could move into opposition if Mr. Gemayel went ahead with plans to scrap the agreement without guarantees of Syrian withdrawal.

A "Lebanese Forces" spokesman said the militia's political council was meeting Monday to discuss what position to take.

The cabinet secretary said Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan, who tendered his cabinet's resignation of Feb. 5, had agreed to stay on briefly as a caretaker while Mr. Gemayel was away in Switzerland for the reconciliation talks.

Western military sources say the vast majority of ambushes in the south are carried out by local Lebanese resistance forces.

Israel-Lebanon pact has features of a peace treaty, page 2

Israeli jets bomb PSP positions in mountains

BEIRUT (R) — Israeli planes launched two bombing raids around the Druze mountain towns of Alek and Bhandoun Monday, state-run Beirut Radio said.

The first raid, shortly after 8 a.m. (0600 GMT), destroyed an empty three-storey building in Alek, 14 kilometres southeast of Beirut, and caused no casualties, the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia officials said.

The planes returned at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT) and hit positions above Alek and towards Bhandoun, the radio reported.

The radio and the PSP officials said both raiding parties ran into anti-aircraft fire but there were no reports of a hit.

In Tel Aviv a military spokesman claimed the targets hit in both raids were buildings used by Palestinians in Alek on the Beirut-Damascus highway.

The raids followed a series of three explosions aimed at Israeli troops in the southern port of Sidon Sunday.

One Lebanese civilian was killed and eleven Israeli soldiers wounded in the attacks, an Israeli spokesman said.

Israel claims its raids in the PSP-held mountains are designed to deter Palestinian commandos from infiltrating into South Lebanon to attack the Israeli occupation forces.

Western military sources say the vast majority of ambushes in the south are carried out by local Lebanese resistance forces.

Israel-Lebanon pact has features of a peace treaty, page 2

'TNT' claims responsibility for attack on Ramallah bus

TEL AVIV (AP) — Anonymous callers have claimed responsibility for Sunday's shooting attack on a bus near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank in which seven Palestinian workers were wounded, Israeli media reported Monday.

"Terror against terror," a Jewish terrorist organisation known by its Hebrew acronym "TNT," claimed responsibility for the attack in a call to Israeli army radio Sunday night. In a tape aired Monday, the caller warned that "this is one in a series of action that will happen soon."

The bus raid occurred at dawn Sunday in the village of Mazraa Sharqiyyeh, about 16 kilometres north of Ramallah. Doctors said the two workers most seriously injured were transferred to hospitals in Jerusalem while the others were treated locally.

"TNT" has claimed responsibility for a series of booby-trapped grenades set in front of Christian and Muslim religious sites in and around Jerusalem.

The English-language Jerusalem Post said Monday that an anonymous caller claimed Sunday's shooting in the name of "Shlomo Ben Youssef Brigade," which it said was named after the first Jew to be hanged by the British mandatory authorities for trying to ambush an Arab bus in Palestine before the creation of Israel.

Iraq denies using chemical weapons

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Iraqi commander was quoted Monday as denying Iraq was using chemical weapons against Iranian troops in fighting on the southern Gulf war fronts.

Foreign newsmen also quoted Major-General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhri, commander of the East Tigris Force, as saying Iraqi troops had encircled on three sides the oil-rich Majnoon islands, occupied by Iran in recent fighting.

Briefing reporters at his headquarters at Al Uzzayr in southeast Iraq, he denied Iraq had chemical weapons, but said: "We are going to use all available means at our disposal to defend our dignity and honour," the reporters told Reuters.

Iran charges that some 1,000 Iranians have been injured in the past two weeks by chemical weapons it claims were supplied to Iraq by Britain.

The spokesman again denied that Britain had sold chemical weapons to Iraq or any other country.

Iran had also accused Britain of providing billions of dollars worth of planes, tanks and weapons to Iraq since the Gulf war began.

Iran also appeared to expect new fighting, with its official news agency quoting Iranian parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani as saying Iraq would do its best to retake the Majnoon Islands.

Mr. Rafsanjani told a press conference in Tehran heavy fighting would break out in this area.

Iran recruiting aircraft maintenance staff from Taiwan, page 2

Iraqi envoy thanks King for support in Gulf war, page 3

Iran would find it difficult to close Strait of Hormuz, page 4

Hart upsets Mondale again in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Gary Hart is on a political roll, adding an upset victory in the Maine caucuses to one in the New Hampshire primary, but former Vice-President Walter Mondale and his managers insist they know a way to beat the Colorado senator in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mr. Hart claimed "another political miracle" Sunday night, as complete returns from Maine's 414 caucuses showed him with almost 51 per cent to Mr. Mondale's 44 per cent.

Sen. John Glenn, former Sen. George McGovern and the Rev.

Hassan opens antiquity exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened at the University of Jordan Library Monday an exhibition of French contribution to Jordanian antiquities which is organised by the Department of Antiquities in co-operation with the French embassy and the French Cultural Centre, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. The six-day exhibition includes photographs of places of archaeological interests in Jordan and it also reflects the outcome of efforts in which French experts took part in excavating antiquities in Jordan and studying them. Petra said. The opening ceremony attended by University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali, Director General of Department of Antiquities Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi, French Ambassador to Jordan Jacques de Sedouy, university officials, members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and a number of invited guests.

Queen says her role as wife comes first

By Leila Deeb

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor says her role as wife to His Majesty King Hussein comes first, but that she tries to make herself accessible to anyone needing her help.

The Queen sees herself as a committed Arab, takes interest in politics and is active in the fields of education, art, the environment, health and sports.

She told Reuters in a two-hour interview she wanted to be accessible "to all those who need me for any reason or are in need of any kind of support."

In the sitting room of her office in one of the small houses of the palace complex overlooking Amman, she spoke of her role as a mother and a queen and discussed politics, regretting "manipulations and acrobatics between East and West."

Queen Noor said her role as a wife was the most important role she played in the interest of her country.

"I try not to let my work interfere with my role as wife because I believe the two are so much part of each other," she said.

Of her relationship with King Hussein, she said: "We are able to communicate about so many different issues and challenges, and

that is because of my involvement with my work for the country as well as because we are two people who enjoy sharing."

Of the future of her children, the Queen said she would first hope and pray that the Jordanians live in and work for would be "one that is peaceful and tranquil and that offers them as individual opportunities to use their abilities in contributing to a better future for the coming generation."

She said that as a child she thought of herself as an Arab from the time she knew she was an Arab American.

"From the time my parents first explained my background to me, was a committed (Arab), I would

(Continued on page 3)

Joint committee adjourns meetings for ten days

By Afifah A. Kaloti

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the People Living under Occupation were adjourned Monday for 10 days as Palestinian members in the committee were leaving for Tunis to attend various meetings of the Palestinian leadership.

The joint committee, which started its 25th session Tuesday, continued discussions Monday of the working agenda. "The meeting was an extension to discussions started last Tuesday on issues related to the people under Israeli occupation, and is still open for further discussions," Mr. Khalil Al Wazir, a Palestinian member in the committee told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said that the committee will resume its session after 10 days.

The committee's meetings were adjourned to facilitate its Palestinian members of attend various meetings to be held in Tunis including a meeting of the Cent Committee of Fateh, the biggest commando movement under PLO umbrella, and meetings of different Palestinian institutions such as the Super Military Council, Mr. Wazir said.

Commenting on an earlier decision by the committee to join joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations to tour various Arab countries to seek financial assistance to support the people living under Israeli occupation, Wazir said that the first delegation, which will include Minister of Trade and Industry, Tourism Jawad Al Anani himself, will visit Algeria after Tunis meetings.

The delegations' tour of Arab countries committed by the Bhdad Arab summit of 1979 to provide financial assistance to "Steadfastness Fund" aims only at "collecting money but to make clear to their governments the Palestinian position under the Israeli occupation and the arbitrary measures taken by the occupation authorities," Mr. Wazir added.

He added that the delegations will also explain to the Arab governments various developments the committee's activities, its plans as well as "remind some countries of their default their commitments."

He pointed out that the expected amount of annual financial assistance was \$100 million according with the Bag summit, but the committee's large deficit because some governments defaulted on their commitments and Libya did not have its commitment at all from very beginning. "The cumulative defaults on payments is not less than \$7 billion," Mr. Wazir said.

The other delegations, from the one formed Sunday not been named yet, Mr. said.

"It is not yet decided who go and when," he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Minister of Interior Sul Arar, who heads the comir Jordanian side, did not Monday's meeting but it was ended by Dr. Anani and Mr. of Occupied Territories Si Mahmoud while the Palestine was headed by Hane Sitrah, a member of the PLI cutive Committee and dire the organisation's Occupie ritories Affairs Department.

Wazir, PLO Executive committee member Hanna Nasir, an representative in Amman Razak Al Yahya.

Arab-Americans support Jackson, page 2

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Chinese president expected in Jordan after talks in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Chinese President Li Xiaonan arrived Monday for a four-day state visit to Pakistan at the start of a four-nation tour which will also include Jordan on Thursday, and then Turkey and Nepal.

Mr. Li was greeted with a 21-gun salute at Islamabad Airport where he was met by Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq.

The two leaders were due to have formal talks Monday night. Another round of talks was expected to follow Tuesday.

Pakistani officials said the talks would cover the world situation, international issues of common interest and bilateral relations.

China is a major arms supplier to Pakistan and also an important ally in its efforts for a withdrawal of Soviet troops from neighbouring Afghanistan.

Mr. Li said in an arrival statement he hoped the visit would make "useful contributions to the strengthening of Sino-Pakistani friendship and co-operation."

Mr. Li said a traditional friendship between China and Pakistan was "developing further and growing in strength" with the joint efforts of the two sides.

"We have come here with the purpose of further increasing mutual understanding, promoting friendship, learning from the Pakistani people and strengthening our co-operation," he said.

Thousands of school children and other people clapped and chanted welcoming slogans as Mr. Li drove out of the Islamabad

Airport and also along his drive route through Islamabad's twin city Rawalpindi.

High-level exchange of visits has been a regular feature of the close ties between China and Pakistan, but Mr. Li is the first Chinese president to come here in 18 years.

Mr. Zia last visited China in October 1982 after Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang's visit to Pakistan in June 1981.

The trip is designed to strengthen China's ties with the four countries and to show solidarity with the Third World.

The official Beijing Review magazine said this week that Peking hoped Mr. Li's visits would also result in a new demand from the leaders of Pakistan and Nepal for an end to the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea.

A strong delegation of Chinese leaders saw the 79-year-old president off at Peking Airport. They included Peng Zhen, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, Vice-Premier Wan Li and Foreign Minister Wu Zuoqian.

It is Mr. Li's first foreign tour since he became president, although he has been to Pakistan twice before.

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Charles Hernu

Hernu begins talks in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu and the Kuwaiti Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Monday discussed possible military co-operation between their two countries, Sheikh Salem said.

He told reporters after the meeting at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defence that his talks also touched on the possible purchase by Kuwait of French weapons to "update and reinforce the capabilities of the Kuwaiti army."

Mr. Hernu, who plans to go to Saudi Arabia after his Kuwait visit, arrived here Sunday night

and told reporters that his country would consider supplying the Gulf state, the closest Arab country to the Gulf war frontlines, with advanced weapons if the matter were raised during his visit.

But he said: "I am not an arms salesman."

Sheikh Salem said he and Mr. Hernu also discussed the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Lebanon, where France still has 1,250 troops as part of a Multi-National Force.

He described the talks with Mr. Hernu as "positive."

Last year, France and Kuwait signed a 1.2-billion-franc (about \$150-million) arms deal covering air-defence systems. During a visit to Paris by Sheikh Salem late last year, the possible purchase by Kuwait of Mirage F-1 fighter bomber and tanks was discussed.

In January last year, Kuwait's chief-of-staff, Major-General Abdullah Farraj Al Ghanem, disclosed that Kuwait wanted to buy 12 Mirage F-1 fighter-bombers.

Mr. Hernu also paid a courtesy call Monday on the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

U.S. to airlift arms to Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Vice-President Omar Mohammed Al Tayeb said Monday the United States had decided to air lift arms to Sudan to help the Khartoum government "confront the conspiracies it is facing."

The pro-Western government of President Jaafar Numeiri is battling secessionist guerrillas in the south of the huge African country, strategically-located in the basin of the River Nile, and accuses neighbours Libya and Marxist Ethiopia of aiding the insurgents.

Mr. Al Tayeb returned Monday from six days in the United States and was quoted by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) as saying Washington understood Sudan's position.

The United States had "decided to establish an air lift direct to Khartoum for transportation of arms and military equipment to the Sudan to help it confront the conspiracies it is facing," he said.

The United States has supplied arms to Sudan for some years and Mr. Numeiri visited Washington last year. Mr. Al Tayeb brought a message from Mr. Numeiri from President Reagan, SUNA said.

Recent rebel attacks on foreign workers in southern Sudan led the U.S. Chevron Oil Company to suspend virtually all work on trying to exploit oil reserves there.

The oil is a key element in the long-term rescue of a debt-laden Sudanese economy said in a new survey by a Gulf bank to be nearly bankrupt.

The insurgency has also delayed progress on the Jonglei Canal, a major scheme to divert Nile Water from the South Sudanese Sudd Swamps to northern Sudan and Egypt, which has a defence alliance with Mr. Numeiri.

Cairo-based diplomats say the rebel attacks recall a bush war between secessionists in the south against the north that took about one million lives in the 1950s and 1960s.

The diplomats in Cairo said southern rebels were aggrieved over recent administrative changes that sub-divided an autonomous southern region into three parts.

America's Arabs support Jackson

NEW YORK (Agencies) — "The savage attack on Rev. Jesse Jackson by Jewish groups reflects the racism of these groups as well as their paranoia," charged Dr. V.T. Mehdi, President of the American-Arab Relations Committee in a speech to the Arab American Community in Brooklyn in defence of the Black Presidential candidate.

"The establishment of the Jewish organisations has been harassing Rev. Jackson and thereby violating the spirit of free debate in the American democracy," Dr. Mehdi asserted.

Explaining the reason for the attack on Rev. Jackson by the Jewish groups Dr. Mehdi said: "Rev. Jackson is challenging the traditional society" and "the Jewish establishment fears that it will lose some of its strength when the blacks acquire their proper share of power."

Mayor Edward Koch's attack on Rev. Jackson reflects "not only the mayor's tradition of opening his mouth above and beyond the call of duty, but also his concern for Tel Aviv more than Harlem," the Arab American spokesman charged.

Dr. Mehdi said that Rev. Jackson should not have appeared before a Jewish audience in New Hampshire to apologise for his "slip of the tongue." He appeared as "a criminal in a kangaroo court," Mr. Mehdi maintained. A simple press release explaining his mistake and abusive language would have sufficed, he said.

Dr. Mehdi and a delegation of Arab Americans had gone to Damascus, Dec. 17 1983, to secure the release of Lt. Robert Goodman, two weeks before Rev. Jackson's trip to Damascus.

But Dr. Mehdi, who defended Rev. Jackson against the harassment by Jewish organisations, is critical of the candidate on the Palestine question. "Jackson is no different than Mondale, Hart, or Reagan on the Arab-Israeli conflict," he declared. Indeed, Mr. Mehdi has bitterly criticised Rev. Jackson for calling on the Arabs to recognise the Jewish state.

Majnoon Island: Likely focus of Gulf fighting

AHRAIN (R) — The oil-rich Majnoon Island in the marshlands of southeast Iraq Monday appeared a likely target of Iraqi attack as it assumed possible political significance in the 41-month-old Gulf war.

An Iraqi commander was quoted as saying Iraqi troops had encircled the island — seized by Iran — on three sides.

A senior Iranian official Sunday edited fierce fighting in the sea as Iraq sought to retake the island, estimated to hold billions of barrels of recoverable crude oil. But Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Iranian Parliament, also indicated Iran might consider cession of the island to Iran in settlement of its demand for war reparations from Iraq.

Tehran has demanded \$150 billion in reparations to cover material losses sustained by Iran in the first two years of the Gulf war.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking at a press conference in Tehran, quoted unnamed Arab officials as saying Iran's possession of Majnoon would cover the \$150 billion demand.

In remarks reported by the Iranian National News Agency IRNA, he quoted them as saying another \$100 billion would cover further damages in the third and fourth years of the conflict.

Diplomats say Iraq, its economy badly hit by the cost of the war and a slump in its oil exports, would be unable to meet the reparations demand.

But Mr. Rafsanjani, Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's spokesman on the Supreme Defence Council, appeared to signal willingness to consider peace talks a week ago when he said Tehran was open to new proposals, they said.

Tehran could now be signalling readiness to accept cession of Majnoon island in settlement of its reparations claim, although Iraq was unlikely to readily agree, they said.

Controversy meanwhile continued over Iranian accusations that Iraq was using chemical weapons in the fighting on the southern fronts, which Baghdad denies.

Foreign newsmen in southeast Iraq quoted an Iraqi commander as again rejecting the charge as saying Iraq had no such weapons.

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The oil is a key element in the long-term rescue of a debt-laden Sudanese economy said in a new survey by a Gulf bank to be nearly bankrupt.

The insurgency has also delayed progress on the Jonglei Canal, a major scheme to divert Nile Water from the South Sudanese Sudd Swamps to northern Sudan and Egypt, which has a defence alliance with Mr. Numeiri.

Cairo-based diplomats say the rebel attacks recall a bush war between secessionists in the south against the north that took about one million lives in the 1950s and 1960s.

The diplomats in Cairo said southern rebels were aggrieved over recent administrative changes that sub-divided an autonomous southern region into three parts.

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"The establishment of the Jewish organisations has been harassing Rev. Jackson and thereby violating the spirit of free debate in the American democracy," Dr. Mehdi asserted.

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But Dr. Mehdi, who defended Rev. Jackson against the harassment by Jewish organisations, is critical of the candidate on the Palestine question. "Jackson is no different than Mondale, Hart, or Reagan on the Arab-Israeli conflict," he declared. Indeed, Mr. Mehdi has bitterly criticised Rev. Jackson for calling on the Arabs to recognise the Jewish state.

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Israel protests Egypt over Palestinian conference

TIRO (R) — Israel has officially protested to Egypt over the staging of a Palestinian conference in Cairo to later this month, an Israeli spokesman said Monday.

The conference on the support for the Palestinian people was against the spirit and letter of the 1978 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, the spokesman said.

Relations between Egypt and Israel have been described by Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials as cool since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, he said.

The annual Egyptian International Fair due to open here Saturday.

Israel received an official invitation two months ago to participate in the fair and a team of officials is already in Cairo to organise the Israeli pavilion, he said.

He said the Israeli stand would include equipment and agricultural machinery, he added.

Meeting with Assad leaves congressman convinced of Syrian domination in Lebanon

PHOENIX, Arizona (AP) — Congressman John McCain says a 75-minute meeting with Syria's president and other stops on a recent trip to the Middle East left him convinced that Syria "will dominate future events in Lebanon."

McCain, an Arizona Republican, and Senator John Tower, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, visited Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey.

"I returned to Washington without much optimism on the immediate prospects for favourable resolution of the region's many crises," Mr. McCain wrote in an article published Sunday by a Phoenix newspaper, the Arizona Republic.

He said Mr. Assad was friendly throughout the discussion, adding "I had to remind myself during the meeting that this outwardly attractive man presides over a brutal regime which has perpetrated

U.K. to give £750,000 for relief work

LONDON (LPS) — Britain is to give £750,000 for relief work among victims of the Lebanon conflict, the Overseas Development Administration announced here Friday.

Some £500,000 will be provided through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) for its 1984 Lebanon emergency appeal and £275,000 will be given to the International Committee of the Red Cross for similar work.

Announcing an overall emergency package totalling £10 million world-wide for drought relief and work among refugees, Mr.

Timothy Raison, overseas development minister, said: "I have been struck by the deep concern shown by many people in Britain about the grave refugee and drought problems which challenge us today. I hope they will feel that this package is a strong and effective response to the challenge."

He said Syria has been the major influence in Lebanon. "Syria has not had peace in the real sense since its independence as it is always in a state of war with Israel and cannot overlook for one moment the balance of powers nor ignore attempts by its enemies to expand," he said.

Mr. Kasm, addressing the opening session of a four-day Arab Health Minister's Conference, said Syria had a "war economy" because of circumstances in the region "which subject it to more dangers and aggression."

Syria earmarked about 53 per cent of its 1983 budget totalling 33 billion Syrian pounds (\$5.5 billion) on military spending, according to official statistics.

"The Syrian army is facing all those who have ambitions in this part of the world and has no option but to develop itself," Mr. Kasm said.

On Lebanon, Mr. Kasm said Syria had achieved a victory against the "enemy."

He was referring to recent events in Lebanon, which Syria regards as a victory against Israel and the United States.

"We have convinced the United States and Israel that Syria is a strong Arab barrier that cannot be boycotted," he added.

Syria has war economy, premier says

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm said Monday his country's economy reflects the fact Syria has not known peace since independence in 1946.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Obeidat receives governor of Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Monday received in his office Jerusalem Governor Amwar Al Khatib. No further details were released about the meeting.

Brazilian envoy presents credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday received a copy of the credentials of Brazil's newly-appointed ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Selix Baptista de Faria. Mr. de Faria has recently arrived in Jordan to take over as Brazil's first ambassador to Jordan.

Blood donors to get free medical cards

AMMAN (Petra) — Citizens who donate blood for public use will be issued with free health security cards valid for six months, according to a decision taken by Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni Monday. Holders of health security cards are entitled to receive free medical care at all government hospitals and surgeries around the country.

Italian sculpture show to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-day exhibition of contemporary Italian sculpture entitled MULTIPLI will be opened by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Owaidat at the Royal Cultural Centre Tuesday. The exhibition, organised in co-operation with the Italian embassy, will last until March 12.

Fewer ships dock at Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of vessels which have docked at the port of Aqaba between January and November inclusive was 2,242 compared with 2,364 ships in the same period of 1982, according to a statistical bulletin recently issued by the Aqaba Port Department. The bulletin said that the volume of goods exported via Aqaba reached 4,633,932 tonnes against 3,553,631 tonnes during the same period in 1982.

Arab League land use meeting slated

AMMAN (Petra) — The eighth international conference on the uses and classification of land will be held in Amman from May 14 till May 25. The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in co-operation with the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories at the Arab League.

French classical guitarist mixes greats and moderns in recital

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Playing her guitar very softly and beautifully, in Amman this week is the young and talented French classical guitarist Tania Chagnot. This five time winner of international classical guitar playing competitions (which include the prestigious Prix d'Hommeur at the 1980 Concours International de l'UFAM — the French association of female musicians — and the first prize at the Fernando Sor competition in Rome in 1983) gave a recital at the French Cultural Centre Sunday night and, for those who missed it, there will be a repeat performance Tuesday.

The first part of Miss Chagnot's programme is devoted to the especially adapted work of great classical composers like Bach, Dowland and Praetorius. The second and greater part of the recital however features pieces written for the guitar by the modern masters Joaquin Rodrigo, Miguel Llobet, William Walton, Roland Dyens and Antonio Ruiz-Pipo.

'My epoch'

"Although I love Bach", Miss Chagnot said when explaining her choice of music, "I am very interested in 20th century music — it

is my epoch. Music today is exciting because modern composers use all the possibilities an instrument offers them. For composers like Bach, the instrument was only the means of making music, for modern composers the instrument and all its different aspects are an integral part of the music."

And to illustrate what she meant, Miss Chagnot plucked the strings of her guitar in dissonant way and tapped and beat a rhythm on the wooden part of the instrument producing drum like reverberations.

Born in France in 1962 to a Spanish mother and an English father, Miss Chagnot is now in her

final year at the L'Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris. After her graduation, Miss Chagnot hopes to continue her studies both with her master and by attending international courses. In the meantime she hopes to be able to continue giving concerts, something she should have no problem in doing for, despite being in a highly competitive field, Miss Chagnot has given many recitals both abroad in Syria, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Germany, Switzerland and Sardinia as well as in her native France.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. in the hall at the French Cultural Centre.



Tania Chagnot

Queen says her role as wife comes first

(Continued from page 1)

not say Arab nationalist, at five years old." Her father, Mr. Najceh Halaby, is American of Syrian-Lebanese origin.

Queen Noor has never been to Jerusalem. But as an architecture and urban planning graduate of Princeton University, she says the one thing that always stands out in any landscape view of the city is the gilded Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

"That is always the pin-point, no matter how many (Jewish) settlements are built around it," she said of the Dome, now being overshadowed by high-rise apartment blocks built by the Israelis in East Jerusalem. The Dome was built 13 centuries ago on the spot where the Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven.

Discussing politics, Queen Noor said she was disappointed that attention was concentrated on issues which were not of immediate concern to the Arab world or individual.

"The humanitarian concerns and problems of the people have been overshadowed by the political manipulations and acrobatics between East and West," she said.

Welcoming the recall in January of Jordan's parliament, suspended for the past 10 years, she said there were different types of democracy, with some working more effectively than others.

"We can easily see from the vantage point of the Middle East that the form of government of the United States is not always reflective of the point of view of the majority of citizens," she said.

She hoped the Jordan Society, a U.S.-based group with no ties to the Jordanian government but encouraged by her, would bring greater understanding.

The Queen said she did not believe women in politics should be confined to some areas of work, and she saw no reason why there could be no women in the Jordanian Parliament in the near future.

Women in Jordan will vote in parliamentary elections for the first time when by-elections on the East Bank are held to fill eight vacant seats. No women have been nominated to run, although a 1974 decree gave them the right to vote and be elected.

Queen Noor said King Hussein "all along tried to base the government's structure and policy-making on a representative, effective, secure and principled basis."

As head of the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, the Queen has promoted research work into the country's manpower needs.

"It is vitally important to try to offer guidance and counsel to students at the early stages of their educational career, so that they

will be made aware of the opportunities that will exist for them," she said.

The Queen is involved in projects for the welfare of children in Jordan and the Arab World. She invites a boy and girl from every Arab country each year to spend time in Jordan to experience their common Arab heritage and the culture and heritage of Jordan.

She is also honorary president of the S.O.S. Children's Village Association in Jordan, whose project is under construction, and takes an active interest in the promotion of the arts.

It was her idea to create an annual folk and cultural festival in the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, north of Amman.

She also headed the National Higher Council for Physical Fitness, but although she loves sports, she says she has time only for exercises necessary to her health.

"My work is very important to me and I feel it enables me to be more of a mother," she said.

As the Queen of Jordan she will play hostess to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip who are due here on a state visit on March 26.

"We are looking forward to receiving them as good friends and as representatives of a country and people who have had long ties of friendship and association with Jordan and the Middle East. I feel certain their visit will be secure and successful," Queen Noor said.



Iraq's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja'a Al Sultan addressing a rally organised by the Iraqi community in Jordan Monday (Petra photo)

Arar, Saudi civil defence head discuss exchange of expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar received at his office Monday the visiting director of the Saudi Arabian Civil Defence Department, Major-General Hashim Mohammad Abdul Rahman, and the delegation accompanying him.

The two men discussed the scope of co-operation in the field of the exchange of expertise between the two countries.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Rahman expressed his happiness at the visit to Jordan and voiced himself particularly pleased to be able to get acquainted with the achievement and progress made by the Jordanian Civil Defence Department

in the fields of fire extinguishing, rescue and first aid.

The meeting was attended by Civil Defence director, Major-General Khaled Al Tarawneh, his deputy responsible for administration and a number of civil defence officers.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Rahman and his accompanying delegation Monday morning visited the Civil Defence Department where they were received by Maj.-Gen. Tarawneh and his assistants.

The delegation was briefed by Maj.-Gen. Tarawneh on the department's activities and the tasks it performs in serving the people in the fields of fire fighting, first aid

and general rescue services.

The delegation later toured the various actions of the department where they watched the civil defence's modern machinery in action and were briefed on the section's activities and tasks. They expressed their admiration for the high level which the Civil Defence Department has reached.

Maj.-Gen. Abdul Rahman and the delegation accompanying him, who arrived here Sunday on a four-day official visit to Jordan, Sunday visited the Jordanian folklore museum at the Roman amphitheatre here where they saw examples of Jordanian folklore and antiquities.

Dentistry conference planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The third Jordanian dentistry conference is scheduled to be held here on April 12 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Dentists from Arab and foreign countries, as well as health and

regional organisations, will take part in the two-day conference to be organised by the Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA).

President of the JDA, Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad, said that the conference research papers will concentrate on dental care

CORRECTION

The Jordan Times issue of March 5 carried a Jordan News Agency, Petra, item headlined "RSS wants to introduce national building code" saying that Jordan spends nearly JD 1 million annually on construction work. This should have read JD 100 million.

Ministry seeks volunteers to make community centres successful

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Social Development's Department of Community Development is hoping to encourage various societies to participate in establishing and running community centres throughout the country in order to improve the facilities in these centres, according to Mr. Faisal Khatab, head of the Community Development Department at the ministry.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Mr. Khatab explained that the department had encountered many problems in the administration of community centres and that the enthusiastic participation of voluntary societies could be beneficial in providing services, teaching and equipment as well as in promoting co-operation between different sectors of the community.

Difficulties

Outlining the difficulties faced, Mr. Khatab said that the lack of available finances for the establishment of such centres is a major problem and that the fees of JD 2 or JD 3 per month which are paid by people attending the various courses at the centres do not cover the tuition and maintenance costs incurred.

Financial problems also limit the equipment the centres can purchase and Mr. Khatab illustrated this point by saying that although great interest has been shown in car mechanic courses, there are not enough funds to establish these courses due to the high costs of welding and mechanical equipment.

Worthwhile services

Mr. Khatab said that the centres do provide worthwhile services to the community and that all the centres established by the ministry have a children's club where youngsters are supervised while their mothers attend knitting or sewing classes at the centres.

In addition to these classes for women, many of the centres also run courses in home economics, child care and sanitation which help to raise family living standards, Mr. Khatab said. A recent trend has been a greater interest in

wiring, electricity and basic household maintenance on the part of women who feel that this may be more practical than handicrafts which they might not be able to sell, he added.

The aim behind establishing social centres was to involve people in community development, and in the rural areas the ministry hopes to reduce migration to the towns by improving services and activities, commented Mr. Khatab.

Participation

However, the active participation of the local people in some areas has not been very encouraging in spite of establishing community centres formed by the local people to help with the work, projects and planning.

Mr. Khatab said that the menfolk in Sam'asahan near Mafrqa refused to let their women attend courses at the centre until they were convinced that they would be useful.

Establishing the individual needs of the communities and investigating their particular interests may help to encourage more participation in the centres, he said.

Another problem facing the centres is a lack of trained staff to teach the courses and to help in the running of the centre. Mr. Khatab said that voluntary societies and institutions could possibly help in this matter.

Successful co-operation

He said that Yarmouk University had helped the Kremlin centre in the North Ghor by providing staff and technical assistance in establishing carpentry, woodwork and plumbing courses for men.

This co-operation has been mutually beneficial, said Mr. Khatab, because the students have gained practical experience and the people of Kremlin have received improved services.

Another example of successful co-operation between the Ministry of Social Development and a private society is the Al-Faq'a Community Development Centre near Karak which opened last month, said Mr. Khatab.

Outside help

The Catholic Relief Services

Iraqi envoy thanks King for support in Gulf war

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja'a Al Sultan hailed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war and paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and the government and people of Jordan for their support for Iraq since the start of Iranian hostilities against Iraq.

Mr. Sultan was speaking at a rally organised by the Iraqi community in Jordan Monday, after a march to the front of the Iraqi embassy in Amman.

The march, said Jordan News Agency, Petra, was organised to celebrate the victories the Iraqi army has achieved in the latest battles against the Iranian army, during the last few days.

Mr. Sultan called on all Arab states to meet their obligations in supporting Iraq, in accordance with the Fex Summit Conference of 1982.

The United Nations and the international community, said Mr. Sultan, should play an effective role to put an end to the aggressive policy of Iran, which now threatens the whole region.

"Because the Iranian rulers do not know the meaning of law, they know nothing of human relations," he said.

They only know how to occupy Iraqi land, he continued saying that if successful the Iranians will go to occupy the whole Arabian Gulf in order to expand their Persian empire, Mr. Sultan added.

Winding up the rally, the Iraqis decided to send a cable of support to the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in which they hailed the courageous stand of the Iraqi army and people in the face of the brutal waves of aggression by Iran.

They also expressed their pride in the Iraqi leadership and voiced their preparedness to defend their land and rights.

Arab Parliamentary Union chief meets Lawzi, Fayeze

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayeze Monday received the secretary-general of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU), Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Bourawi, who congratulated them on their appointment as speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament respectively.

Mr. Bourawi arrived here from Damascus, on a short visit to Jordan.

Mr. Bourawi, Mr. Lawzi and Mr. Fayeze in their talks reviewed some of the subjects relating to the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference, which will be held in Tunis on March 11.

They also discussed the adoption of a unified Arab stand vis-a-vis the topics to be raised at

the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference which will be held in Geneva later this month.

Attending the meetings was the secretary-general of the Jordanian Parliament, Mr. Yahya Al Droubi.

Mr. Fayeze will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Afro-Arab Parliamentary Conference.

Other members of the delegation will be senate member Walid Salah and Khaled Al Haj Hassan and Ribhi Mustafa from the Lower House of Parliament, in addition to Yousef Al Halta and Zaid Zuraikat from the parliament General Secretariat.

Study on engineers completed

AMMAN (Petra) — A recent survey on working engineers in Jordan has revealed that there are 9,335 practising engineers half of which are working in the public and half in the private sector.

The study, conducted by the Ministry of Public Works, also shows that female engineers form 2.2 per cent of the total number of those practising in Jordan and that 80 per cent of the total are younger than 40 years of age.

The ratio of non-Jordanian Arabs and foreign engineers registered 10 per cent of the total practising engineers.

The study also pointed to the fact that engineers rarely change jobs because the rate of pay differs little between the public and private sectors, especially between those whose qualifications and experience comparable.

The report also came up with various recommendations among which include the direction of engineering training and specialisation in accordance with the development needs of Jordan, defining a special policy for post graduate training.



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brings you back to nature and offers you cosmetics from purely natural herbs and announces to elegant ladies of Jordanian society the arrival of the:

Belgian beauty expert
Miss Dolly

who will provide her advices on skin care for the year 1984 according to the following schedule:

FRIDAY	Jihad Salon, behind American embassy, Jabal Amman, 2nd Circle.
SATURDAY	Yaseen Salon, Amman Marriott Hotel
SUNDAY	Al Rabieh Pharmacy, behind Al Hussein Housing Estate
MONDAY	Fedra Salon, Shmeisani, opposite Al Hussein Housing Estate
TUESDAY	Yacoub Pharmacy, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle
WEDNESDAY	Beit Al 'Ashaab, Shmeisani, Jawharat Amman Building, opposite Omar Al Khayyam Hotel, Tel: 672276
THURSDAY	Liza Beauty Centre, behind Sukaina School, Jabal Al Hussein

Iran will find it difficult to close the strait

By Gerald F. Seib

WASHINGTON — The long-feared oil crisis might unfold like this:

Iraq strikes at Iran's oil jugular vein in their 3.5-year-old war. It uses its French-made Super Etendard warplanes to sink oil tankers at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the Gulf.

Iran retaliates by dispatching helicopters and ships to mine the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf's narrow mouth. Frightened shipping companies and insurance firms that underwrite tankers call a halt to oil shipments from the Gulf, through which passes 20 per cent of the non-Communist world's oil.

To protect the oil supplies, the U.S. and its allies spring into action. Saudi Arabia sends its four mine-sweeping ships into the strait to start clearing it out. The U.S. airlifts mine-sweeping helicopters half way around the world to begin sweeping operations of its own. Planes from the aircraft carriers Midway protect the mine-sweepers from attack by Iranian planes, while U.S. warships escort tankers through the Gulf.

Not so far-fetched

Such a scenario is purely hypothetical. But with Iraq claiming this week that its warplanes attacked tankers near Kharg Island and warning ships to stay away, it doesn't seem so far-fetched. Iraq's claim hasn't been confirmed, but the mere reports of it sent oil prices shooting up. And U.S. officials again are worried that Iran could

be provoked into carrying out its longstanding threat to close the Strait of Hormuz to punish Iraq and its supporters.

The task of closing the strait would be formidable militarily, the risk of massive retaliation high and the cost to Iran's own economy steep. "In the short range they could do it," says Richard Helms, former director of U.S. Central Intelligence and a former ambassador to Iran. "But it isn't in their interest in the long run. If you look at it coldly and cynically," an American defence official is more direct: Iran would find that it "can't sustain a blockade over time," he says.

But even an Iranian attempt to close the strait, or threats from Tehran to mine it or attack tankers, could create havoc. "One of the better ways to close the strait is to just threaten to bomb a tanker and let insurance rates go up," says Christine Helms (no relation to Richard Helms), a Brookings Institution analyst. If insurance rates go too high, the tankers would be forced to stay out of the Gulf.

A shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz would be designed to punish countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which support Iraq, by cutting off their ability to export oil. But Iran could accomplish the same thing by bombing Saudi and Kuwaiti oil installations. An attack against the huge Saudi oil-loading facility at Ras Tanura would be particularly crippling and could spark war all around the Gulf.

Diverting resources

Mining the strait or attacking moderate Arab states like Saudi Arabia would force Iran to divert military resources from its war with Iraq. Blocking the strait also would cut off its own ability to ship oil. And the massive Western military response that might follow could overwhelm Iran's own deteriorating military machine.

But Iran has defied logic before, and the U.S. is prepared for it to do so again.

Mining the strait would be difficult. Its deep water (the depth averages about 150 feet) would make it a problem to plant mines, particularly ones that must be moored to the sea floor. "The problem with mining the strait is that it isn't permanent," says one Pentagon analyst. "The water is swift," he adds. Mines could wash away. Iran wouldn't be sure of their location, meaning it couldn't send its own oil tankers through the area any more safely than could other countries.

U.S. officials aren't sure, but they assume Iran could at least scatter some mines using ships and helicopters or, perhaps, P-3 patrol planes Iran acquired from the U.S. before Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power.

But some analysts say that American mine-sweeping capabilities have proved to be deficient in the past. They contend that even scattered Iranian mines could interfere with oil shipments for weeks.

Iran also would face difficulties trying to sink ships in an effort to

close the strait. Iran's navy and air force are believed to have deteriorated so much in recent years that experts aren't sure they are capable of carrying out effective attacks.

Generally, Mr. Helms says, the Iranian navy doesn't "amount to a damn any more. They never were very good." Iran's navy had 135 ships before the Shah's fall, including many light coastal patrol craft. Western experts don't know how many of them are still working, but most assume that losses and a shortage of spare parts have substantially reduced the number of operational ships.

Similarly, Iran's air fleet has dwindled because of a lack of spare parts and losses in the war with Iraq. For instance, Anthony Cordesman, a former Pentagon official who is now an editor of the Armed Forces Journal, estimates that Iran has only 25 usable F-4 fighter bombers out of a pre-war total of 90, 30 usable F-5 fighters out of 166 previously, and five to 10 F-14 fighter bombers out of 77 before the war. Those types were bought from the U.S. during the Shah's reign.

And even if Iran did sink a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, the strait is deep and wide enough so that other ships still could pass. At its narrowest point, the strait is 25 miles wide.

As a result, some U.S. officials think Iran might simply try to sue its warships to intercept and turn back ships, rather than actually sink them.

Artillery threatens

Mr. Helms worries as much

about the possibility that Iran could pull heavy artillery pieces to the edge of the Strait of Hormuz and use them to threaten ships. He says that Iran has guns, acquired years ago for land wars, that are capable of firing 20 to 30 miles. U.S. defence officials are sceptical, though, that Iran would move heavy guns away from the war with Iraq, and they think ships still could move out of the guns' range.

While Iran would have difficulty carrying out any of these military operations, some analysts worry that it could effectively close the strait for a period if it tried all of them in unison.

U.S. officials are confident, though, that they could quickly surmount any Iranian attempt. The U.S., Britain, France and other countries have discussed plans to form joint naval convoys to escort oil tankers in and out of the Gulf in a crisis.

After sweeping the mines, naval task forces would escort tankers under military air cover. U.S. government officials also assert that insurance companies have indicated they would continue to underwrite tanker operations in the Gulf if the military convoys operate.

The Reagan administration has made sure that it has firepower near the Gulf. A task force of four warships, along with a command ship, operates continuously in and around the Gulf. The aircraft carrier Midway and its support ships are nearby, in the northern Arabian Sea. And the U.S. has a total of 30 ships in the adjoining Indian

Ocean.

AWACS monitor area

In addition, Saudi Arabia, just across the Gulf from Iran, has advanced American jet fighters in its arsenal. And American AWACS radar planes operate out of Saudi Arabia, monitoring air and fleet movements in the Gulf.

Pentagon officials think that Iran would be reluctant to move if it knows that such forces could be quickly turned against it. "At the point they act, the odds swing sharply against them," says one defence planner. Iran, he says, has only a "limited number of planes and ships" compared to such an arsenal.

The military response from the U.S. and its allies, in fact, could be so strong that it might threaten the very existence of Iran's revolutionary government. But American officials insist they aren't looking for a pretext to go after Iran.

They maintain that the chances for unexpected developments are so great the U.S. must try to avoid an armed confrontation. Above all, the U.S. worries about provoking Soviet intervention on behalf of Iran.

And U.S. officials also worry that Iran, even if it were in a precarious position, could manage to spread the war around the Gulf. One American official worries Iran could dispatch "human waves" of its soldiers to create trouble. "They could make a holy war out of it," he says. — The Wall Street Journal.

The cart continues to roll

IT has been crystal clear that, following the collapse last month of U.S. policy on Lebanon, President Amin Gemayel had but to cancel the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement of May 17. Now that he has done so, it would be more pertinent to ask what comes next, rather than dwelling on what had happened before. The Lebanese move has wide implications on nearly all fronts in the Middle East.

Syria, having won the battle over the accord, has not yet achieved victory for Lebanon, nor consequently for itself. How, for instance, is Damascus going to get the Israelis out of the south? And how can it guarantee a true Lebanese reconciliation that could also last? Where do we all go from here?

Both the government and the opposition in Israel have been calling for agreement with Syria over protecting their border in the north. But President Assad apparently is not in a hurry to reach understanding with the Israelis on Lebanon now, leaving them with limited options on what could be done.

The U.S., its leaders admit, does not have much to do with the crisis of Lebanon at the present, since American Marines are no longer in Beirut and the accord that Secretary of State George Shultz helped negotiate last year is no longer wanted by one of the major parties to the conflict.

Lebanon, for its part, is still torn apart by the factional strife that has plagued it since 1975 and most of its territory is still under non-Lebanese control. The door for reconciliation might have been opened after the scrapping of the May 17 accord, but there is a lot of work to be done to rid the country of foreign occupation and to restore its unity, independence and sovereignty.

The Arabs should not be shedding any tears over the demise of the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement: It amounted to another peace treaty imposed on an independent Arab state by Israel. But, still, we should be asking ourselves one or two basic questions at this stage.

First, in whose interest lies an extended Israeli occupation of South Lebanon, or even a permanent occupation of this territory? Second, whose interest is served by continuing to place the problem of Lebanon as an obstacle to achieving a lasting settlement in the Middle East through an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, given that the time factor is of vital importance in the fight for our rights and land?

These questions should be addressed to all Arabs, and others as well, but also to Syria, which has just won its battle over the May 17 accord but which surely does not want the cart to stop rolling there.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Iraq needs genuine support

WE SADLY witness Arab states shirking their responsibility and duty in the current Iraq-Iran war. We have seen Arab states shirking their responsibility before, when the front-line Arab states had been exposed to Israel's aggression. At that time, these states had to accept the pretences and excuses for the shirking nations which claimed they had not enough time to come to aid because of the surprise Israeli attack and because a ceasefire usually cut things short.

What about the Iraq-Iran war, which had been going on for more than three years now, and what about the Arab Mutual Defence Agreement, which rules for Arab states to (ally) to the support and defence of any of the signatory states in the event of armed aggression? What are the Arab states waiting for to honour their commitments?

The Iraqis are calling for peace, but are faced with continued aggression which causes the death of many innocent people on both sides. The war can benefit no one, but can cause Muslim nations to lose resources and men and deepen the hatred among them.

What is required now is a unified Arab stand in support of Iraq in the face of this Iranian aggression and in the face of Iran's ambitions with regard to Arab territory. The war will end if the Iraqis are faced with a joint, firm Arab stand and a convincing show of determination to repel aggression.

Al Dustour: Pact-scrapping opens avenues

DESPITE THE sporadic fighting in Lebanon, there are signs that a political solution to the conflict is now in sight. The Lebanese are looking forward to a solution that would end their prolonged sufferings and lay down the basis for reconciliation and peace.

The road to reconciliation has been opened because the opposition and the government had agreed on scrapping the Lebanese-Israeli pact. We must remind the Lebanese parties that there are many enemies of Lebanon — including Israel — that want to see Lebanon weak and divided and wish to prolong the conflict as long as possible. The scrapping of the agreement would mostly affect Israel, which had seen it as a fruit of its invasion of Lebanon, and, therefore, it will not be surprising for Israel to take action in an attempt at foiling all moves towards expected Lebanese reconciliation. We hope that the leaders of Lebanon's political parties realise these threats and wish their endeavours for reaching peace all success.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran blackmails Gulf states

DESPITE IRAN'S successive defeats and the enormous losses it has suffered over the past three years, it still persists in continuing its war against Iraq. It sends waves after waves of human beings only to be killed at the front without achieving any military or territorial gains.

So far, Iran has suffered at least one million casualties in a war designed to satisfy the ambitions of its rulers. Why should the Iranian people sacrifice its resources and potentials on a losing war; and why should its rulers persist in waging a war which should only jeopardise development in the Gulf region?

It is because Iran's rulers have their own designs for the oil fields of the Arab Gulf states. Iran has been threatening that it will attack Arab oil fields in the Gulf if its own fields are destroyed, and has been imposing on Iraq an economic war to weaken the Arab Nation. It is also adopting a policy of blackmail against the Gulf states aimed at discouraging them from helping Iraq in the war.

Iraq has been able so far to repel all aggressions and will offer further sacrifices for defending its own territory. It is also defending the Gulf states and the whole Arab Nation. Therefore, the Arab states should extend all possible assistance to Iraq and take a unified stand that would end the war and bring Iran's rulers back to their senses.

Alfonsin cracks down on unions

Argentina's new civilian president, not content with bringing the country's former military rulers to heel, is now seeking to discipline their former allies: the trade unions. Jimmy Burns reports

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's capital has been jolted from its summer lull by an outburst of political passion reminiscent of the high points in last October's election campaign. The walls of the city are covered afresh with propaganda posters and demonstrations have been followed by counter demonstrations.

The "hot summer," already close to sizzling because of President Raul Alfonsin's bold onslaught on the military, has reached emotional boiling point thanks to the government's plans for trade union reform. One rally turned into a near riot when a group of half-naked men burst into a parliamentary session being televised live and confronted the assembled deputies with cries of "Viva Peron".

The focus of the trade union reform is the General Confederation of Labour (CGT). Argentina's only major trade union organisation. For nearly 50 years it has been intimately linked with the main opposition party, the Peronists.

A bill has been approved by Parliament's Lower House and is currently under debate in the senate to break down the corporate structure of Argentine trade unions. It proposes a system of direct elections and proportional representation of non-aligned "minorities" at branch level.

The corporatist structure has its roots in 1946 when General Juan Peron seized the opportunity offered to him by an increasingly restless industrialised working class to consolidate his hold on the state. Offering generous social

benefits and a token participation in decision-making to a new generation of union leaders, Gen. Peron did away with the old Socialist and Anarchist unions and replaced them with the CGT.

Recently by CGT has split into factions but it has retained an alliance between a fairly small but privileged group of union leaders and those in power — usually a section of the military.

Following the 1976 coup, hundreds of militant trade unionists were arrested, tortured, or joined the ranks of the "disappeared". But most union leaders were reinstated after a temporary stay in prison.

The tacit alliance between union leaders and members of the former military government has proved both the strength and the weakness of the CGT. Mr. Alfonsin has managed to expose both aspects to full advantage.

During one of his more memorable election campaign Press conferences, he denounced the close links between the leader of the metal workers union, Mr. Lorenzo Miguel, a hardline army officer with a strong influence on the Labour Ministry.

Members of Mr. Alfonsin's party subsequently made allegations involving misappropriation of union funds and fraudulent control of many branch committees where Peronist labour leaders and military officers sat side by side.

Mr. Alfonsin pointed out that the alliance with the army had brought the CGT privileges denied to many others in the worst days of the repression. Parties

were officially proscribed, but the unions were able to hang on to the hotels and private clubs donated years ago by Gen. Peron.

But the labour leaders had done little to protect their members from rising unemployment and the dramatic fall in real wages provoked by the military's tough economic policies. Mr. Alfonsin said.

One of the main causes of Mr. Alfonsin's victory was a substantial swing away from the Peronist candidates in the suburbs around Buenos Aires and other industrialised regions where the traditionally loyal working class changed its voting stance.

Since the elections, the Peronist union leaders and their allies in Parliament have fought a spirited rearguard action. They have been particularly critical of one article of the new law which takes supervision of the union elections out of the hands of current branch leaders. Instead it suggests that the posts on the branch committees should be shared with government officials and that a civilian judge should oversee elections to prevent fraud.

The Peronists have accused Mr. Alfonsin of using the law to split and ultimately destroy their movement. "The law will subvert our movement to the whims of the government," complained one trade union official.

Mr. Alfonsin insists that far from destroying the labour movement he is only interpreting the wishes of its members, who would like to see themselves better and more efficiently represented by less corrupt officials.

The new civilian government needs the collaboration of the trade unions if it is to try to solve

Harsh policies do not affect Dutch premier's popularity

By Peter Calvert

THE HAGUE — Ruud Lubbers, the 44-year-old prime minister of the Netherlands, has achieved a difficult double over the past 16 months — pushing ahead with one of the harshest economic policies in the industrialised world while becoming the most popular of Dutch politicians.

Since his centre-right coalition took power in November 1982, Mr. Lubbers has survived the most serious Dutch labour unrest for many years has survived the most serious Dutch labour unrest for many years to carry through a mammoth savings programme which included three per cent wage cuts for public employees.

At the same time, he has developed from a man who found difficult in expressing himself clearly into an accomplished public performer who can project both charm and wit.

His popularity, shown clearly by opinion polls, is making personality a feature of Dutch politics for possibly the first time, political commentators say, and is proving a major asset to his party, the Christian Democrats (CDA).

However, Mr. Lubbers is facing another major challenge, a decision on whether to deploy cruise nuclear missiles on Dutch soil. And this issue could still cause his

fall over the coming months, politicians say.

With his party split on the missiles and unsure of a parliamentary majority on the question, Mr. Lubbers has to decide whether to accept cruise and thus defy a powerful pacifist movement as well as deep public concern on nuclear weapons.

Political sources say Mr. Lubbers is personally in favour of honouring the Dutch commitment to NATO and on deployment.

His decision will probably be a careful compromise involving both the sitting of some missiles and changes in other Dutch nuclear tasks. But if this is wrongly judged, it will mean defeat in parliament and Mr. Lubbers' almost certain resignation, senior politicians say.

However, the toughness, determination and clear-sightedness which Mr. Lubbers has shown in struggles last year over economic policy is likely also to help him overcome difficulties over cruise, most believe. Neither the CDA nor their coalition partners, the Liberals, appear to want to contemplate the cabinet's fall.

Mr. Lubbers' qualities in pursuing policies and keeping cabinet unity since taking office have generally surprised commentators, who previously considered him a fine political tactician but some-

one likely to prefer conciliation to action.

He gained a reputation for shifting position according to circumstances while holding key political jobs in the 1970s and early 1980s.

In 1973, at the age of only 34, Mr. Lubbers was named economic minister in a centre-left coalition headed by the Labour Party. He had previously been an economist and businessman.

Since becoming the youngest Dutch prime minister at 43, Mr. Lubbers has pursued key economic policies with unshakeable determination. Left-wing critics say this has damaged the traditional consensus approach to politics.

But his approach reflects his total conviction that heavy savings are essential to reduce a record government deficit and pave the way for recovery, colleagues say.

Whether by management or toughness, Mr. Lubbers has made his cabinet the most unified of recent times, political commentators say. Not the least of his achievements was his initial choice of ministers, which mainly put offensively performers in key posts.

Though always businesslike, Mr. Lubbers has shown flexibility and restraint when the occasion has demanded.

Trudeau has started packing

By Charles Campbell

Associated Press

OTTAWA — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who has announced his plans to step down, kept Canada in the world spotlight for more than 15 years.

"Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau will always be recalled by all of us as one of those remarkable personalities who brought Canada into the centre of world affairs," former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt told the Toronto Star after Mr. Trudeau announced his resignation plans Wednesday.

"His important contribution for us in Europe has been to bring his country closer to us by clearly demonstrating that North America has a dimension which goes beyond the U.S.," Mr. Brandt said.

Back home, Mr. Trudeau's fellow Canadians often had contradictory feelings about his foreign involvement — proud that he was widely respected, but inclined to wish he would devote more attention to problems at home.

On the international scene, Mr. Trudeau's intellect and (flashy style) lifted him above the pack, but his accomplishments were less impressive than his style," the Toronto Globe and Mail commented. "There never seemed enough commitment to any course of action."

Mr. Trudeau became prime minister in April 1968, succeeding Lester B. Pearson, who had won a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in resolving the Suez crisis in 1956.

In his early years, Mr. Trudeau retreated some from Canada's international involvement, disdaining Mr. Pearson's idea of the country as an "honest broker for peace between more established powers."

Under Mr. Trudeau, Canada reduced its commitment to NATO forces in Europe and — in the eyes of its critics — let its armed forces slip.

Mr. Trudeau contributed, at times, to strains in U.S.-Canada ties with his national energy programme, which favoured Canadian-owned oil companies over multinationals, and the Foreign Investment Review Agency, which had the power to forbid foreign takeovers of Canadian firms.

There were also occasional trouble with France over the status of Quebec, where a separatist government tried to advance its goals by conducting what amounted to its own foreign policy.

Relations improved, however, after president Francois Mitterrand took over from Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr. Trudeau was re-elected in 1972 — though by an extremely narrow margin — then won a bigger victory in 1974. He was defeated in May 1979 by the Progressive Conservatives under Joe

Clark and appeared to be on his way out of public life.

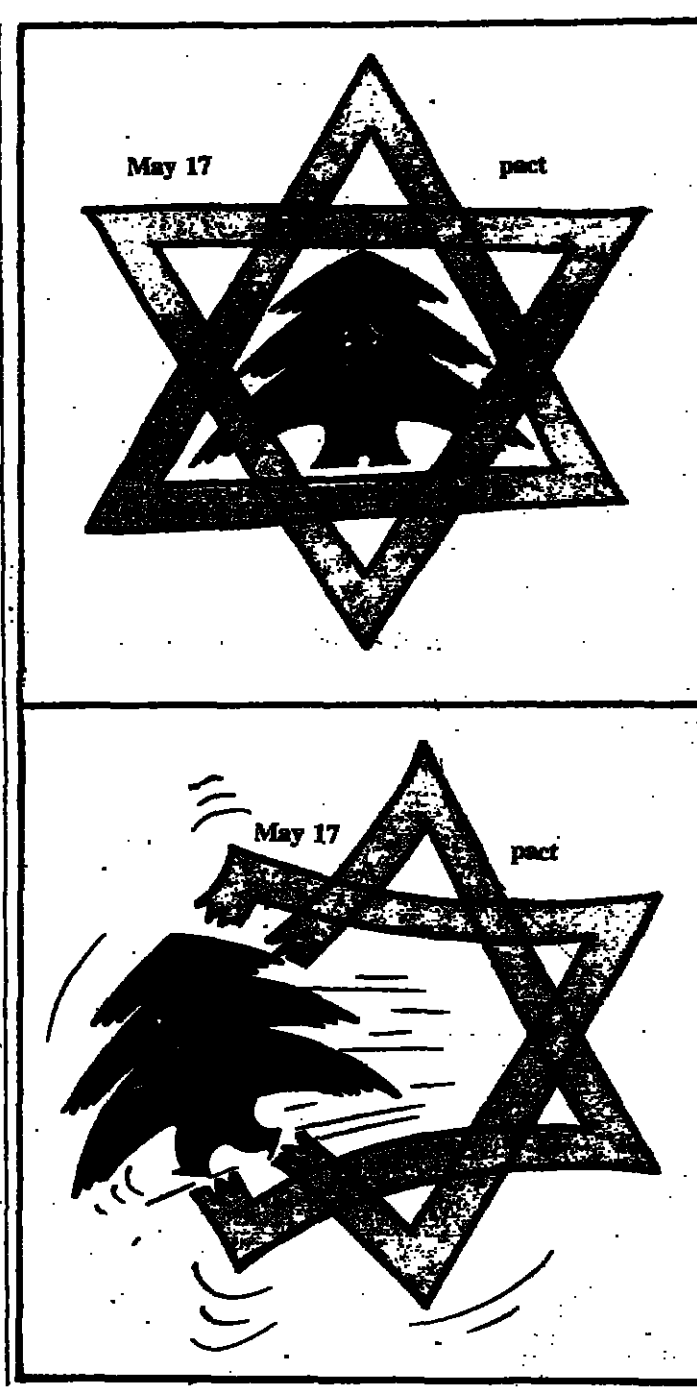
But in November 1979 — less than a month after Mr. Trudeau had announced his retirement — Mr. Clark's government unexpectedly fell on a vote of confidence. Mr. Trudeau was persuaded to lead the Liberal Party one last time and was returned to power.

Mr. Trudeau was perhaps as well known for the company he kept as for his diplomatic initiatives.

In his early years in power he was one of the world's most eligible bachelors, seen often at New York discotheques and elsewhere with beautiful women on his arm. He was married secretly in 1971 to 22-year-old Margaret Sinclair.

He was 51 and the difference in their ages scandalised the country. They had three sons, but in the middle 1970s the strain in their marriage became embarrassingly public. Margaret parted with the Rolling Stones rock group in a Toronto hotel, told her secrets in an interview with People magazine, and eventually wrote two revealing autobiographical books.

The Trudeaus were separated in 1977. Margaret now lives just down the street from the prime minister's residence and sees the three boys — ages 12, 10 and 8 — almost every day, and works as host of a television talk show called "Margaret." She filed for divorce last fall.





SINCE SHE took office in January, the information minister, Mrs. Laith Sharaf, has had a number of meetings with different groups of Jordanian journalists to exchange views with them on how best the government and local newspapers can co-operate in serving society and the citizen. She met separately with editors, columnists, chief sub-editors and last, but not least, reporters. In their meeting with Mrs. Sharaf, the reporters reported that they expressed to the minister their anxiety about the inaccessibility of Jordanian officials to comment on events and news reaching them or their newspapers. This inaccessibility, the reporters quoted themselves as saying, hindered, hampered and distorted reporting and something would have to be done about it. Mrs. Sharaf listened attentively to the complaints, and promised to look into them and take the appropriate measures to help the journalists do their job. She also announced that official spokesmen would be appointed in various ministries to reply to all inquiries and questions that the press may have. One "senior" reporter, who says he "co-existed" with several information ministers during his long professional career, was so impressed by the open atmosphere of the meeting that he later remarked: "I still cannot believe that we were given the chance to open fully our hearts to an information minister."

WHILE ON the subject of reporters and the media, some local and foreign journalists who covered PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's talks in Amman last week must have learned a lot from their past experience in following his movements and those of his team. During visits the PLO chairman made here before last April, tens of journalists had to wait for him for long hours on the pavements outside the Guest Palace, where he usually stayed, until such time when a PLO spokesman emerged from the inside to brief them on what was happening. Not this time, however. The journalists only occasionally dropped by the Guest Palace, to watch out for Palestinian movements, but did in fact rely more heavily on phoning their "sources". Not that they got much news either, but at least the experienced journalists saved themselves some of the "waiting-in-the-cold" trouble that was likely.

CANDIDATES FOR the eight vacant seats in the Lower House of Parliament are free to campaign the way they like for the upcoming by-elections on March 12, but not through holding public rallies to press their points and give their fiery speeches. So, campaigning is really limited to erecting banners in the streets, advertising in local newspapers and to meeting people in social gatherings. Nothing wrong with that, except that people complained lately that some candidates surface sometimes on the wrong occasions — mourning. "It is fine if a candidate shows up at your doorstep to offer his congratulations on a wedding day or a happy occasion that the family might have at the time," commented a seasoned Ammanite. "But surely it is not right for him to lobby for your vote when one of your relatives has just died," he said. "Perhaps the government should reconsider its position on holding public rallies during election campaigns. If that truly is the case," said one official who did not want to be named.

CONTROVERSY OVER whether two policemen had been hanged for rapping a 14-year-old girl outside Amman recently still awaits a satisfying answer. Hundreds of Amman residents, responding to rumours that the execution was actually being carried out, crowded at Al Hussein Grand Mosque vicinity down town to watch the hanging throughout Friday before they finally dispersed. Officials contacted by the Jordan Times ruled out that any hanging had taken place, but rumours linger that either the execution has actually been carried out or that it might take place any day.

Several states are trying to decide who owns what in the Antarctic

Talks on the Antarctic are not so ice-cold as some international negotiations. Robert Graham reports.

The day Port Stanley fell during the Falklands War, representatives from Argentina and Britain were sitting down at the same table in Wellington, New Zealand, discussing the fate of Antarctica. Since then, despite the absence of diplomatic relations, they have continued to meet along with the other signatories to the Antarctic Treaty. The future of this vast and inhospitable continent that covers one-seventh of the world's land mass has proved one of the rare international issues to transcend political differences.

This remarkable spirit of co-operation is now being put to the test over moves to establish a treaty governing exploitation of the Antarctic's mineral resources. The Antarctic Treaty, which came into force in 1961, studiously avoided any mention of mineral exploitation. The issue was so sensitive that it was not raised in formal discussion until 1981.

However, the 16 "consultative parties" are under growing pressure to tackle the issue.

Advances in technology and the world's hunger for raw materials have increased the focus of attention on this untapped continent.

The original signatories to the Antarctic Treaty were Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the U.K. and the U.S. Consultative Party status is available to all who accede and demonstrate interest in conducting substantial

scientific research there. This has been achieved by Poland (1979), West Germany (1981), Brazil and India (1983). Those who have only acceded are Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, East Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Romania, Spain and Uruguay.

Captain Cook, when he saw the daunting icebergs and bleak snowscape 200 years ago, doubted whether man would ever find a use for it. But in 1973 a report for the U.S. National Science Foundation assessed Recoverable oil reserves in the Ross, Weddell and Bellingshausen Seas at 15 billion barrels. In 1976 a U.S. government report for the Antarctic Treaty nations talked of potentially recoverable crude reserves of "tens of billions of barrels" offshore in the Antarctic continental shelf. Public statements by officials connected with the Treaty are more cautious, because nothing is proven.

Development of any hydrocarbons find, at present the most promising resource, poses formidable problems of technology and cost. How does one deal for instance with icebergs which threaten surface rigs and can scour the seabed to depths of 200 metres and more? The costs of developing any find are reckoned to be at least double those of BP's Prudhoe Bay project in Alaska and this excludes the enormously greater cost of tra-

nsportation, according to the Institute of Polar Studies at Ohio University.

However, such daunting problems do not diminish the need to establish a framework for minerals development.

"It is essential that we get a regime in place before someone discovers something, because once a discovery is made positions will harden inevitably," commented one European diplomat involved in the negotiations.

While the fear of a major minerals discovery is the prime stimulus to establish a treaty, there is another less publicised motive. Signatories of the Antarctic Treaty like the U.S. and the U.K. want to keep the matter out of the hands of the United Nations. They regard the U.N. as too unwieldy and too much a prey to emotive arguments on the lines of greedy industrialised nations seeking to pillage mankind's heritage.

The fundamental stumbling block in establishing a treaty surrounds the controversial question of ownership of the landmass and its surrounding seas. The Antarctic shoreline covers three times that of the U.S. and is claimed by seven states, in addition to a good chunk which is totally unclaimed. The claimants — Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the U.K. — rely on a mix of historic discovery, colonial links and continuity.

All but a small proportion of the area claimed by Britain is also claimed either by Argentina or Chile. The claims of Argentina and Chile also overlap. When the Treaty

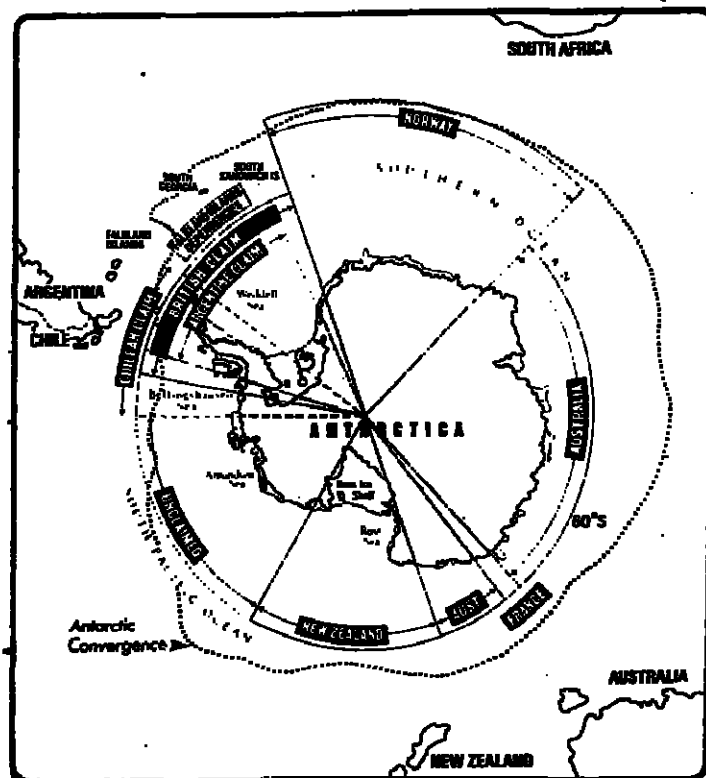
came into force, Britain detached the area south of 60 degrees from the Falkland dependencies to form the British Antarctic Territory (BAT) that includes the South Orkney and South Shetland Islands. British diplomats maintain this was done for administrative convenience but the Argentines saw — and still see — the move as designed to insulate the Antarctic from any future accommodation over the Falklands.

These claims were frozen by the treaty, which runs initially until 1991. No claims are recognised by the other nine Consultative Parties, including the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The seven claimant states are not hanging on to these territories for the good of mankind.

In part, the claims are preventive: to stop others possessing them. More importantly, they exist because one day the territory might be useful. Former Argentine President Isabel Peron once went so far as to hold a cabinet meeting in Antarctic territory claimed by Argentina.

The measure of interest in the continent can be gauged from the presence of 45 stations of which 35 are permanently staffed. (Argentina has the largest number with nine). Next year India, a newcomer to the Antarctic, is due to establish its first staffed station.

Total expenditure by the 16 treaty signatories is hard to gauge. The U.S. last year spent \$80 million of which more than two-thirds was taken up by logistic support. The British Antarctic Survey spent £10 million (\$14.4 million).



Often, as in the case with Argentina and Chile, operations are funded from undisclosed military budgets. But on conservative estimates, a minimum of \$200 million is being spent annually on scientific research and logistic support.

Scientific co-operation has been unprecedented and much research has been of international benefit, especially regarding climatology. But recent offshore geophysical research, in particular by the Germans, Japanese, Norwegians and New Zealanders, has had a more commercial long-term basis. The differences over sovereignty are so profound that they risk dogging any progress on a minerals treaty. Critics argue that the success of the Antarctic Treaty

in demilitarising the region and accepting ground rules for preservation of the flora and fauna has been due to the absence of superpower strategic interests, coupled with the region's remoteness.

No such provisions govern the strategic Arctic peninsula. In other words, the absence of national self-interest has been a precondition for co-operation. Diplomats negotiating the treaty believe that it will be possible only if claimant states accept a limited or "frozen" sovereignty. This means navigating a minefield of national self-interest. "We are inching forward," one negotiator commented after a ten-day session in Washington. — Financial Times news feature.

Future mining might threaten Antarctic peace

By Arik Bachar

LONDON — Frozen Antarctica, the most tranquil continent, looks set to become a subject for hot debate as countries dream of a minerals bonanza under its thick ice.

The remote continent is coming under international scrutiny, with controversy looming, as members of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty discuss prospects of tapping undiscovered riches.

Officials of the 16 treaty members, including the United States and the Soviet Union, met in Washington last month to seek a mining regime amid signs of growing discontent among developing countries which fear that a handful of nations are out to carve up the last unexploited continent.

But supporters of the treaty and efforts to hammer out mining rules dismiss Third World complaints.

"All we want to make sure that Antarctica, a symbol of international co-operation, remains

that way even if large quantities of natural resources are found there," said a British diplomatic source in close touch with the negotiations.

He said that most experts agreed commercial mining in Antarctica would not be feasible before well into the 21st century, but the treaty members wanted to have a regime in place "before it is too late."

Third World complaints about the secretive nature of treaty deliberations were summed up by a delegate from Antigua and Barbuda who spoke of handful of countries making decisions that affect the rest of the world.

Treaty members reluctantly agreed to the resolution, sensing that a major international debate on the future of the continent was inevitable as talk of mining increased.

The facts and figures about Antarctica are daunting. It lies under an ice sheet measuring 13.5 million square kilometres with an average thickness of two kil-

ometres. The ice pack contains 90 per cent of the earth's permanent ice, covering nine per cent of the globe's land mass.

Only human population is a fluctuating body of up to 2,000 research scientists from treaty countries.

Equally daunting for the realistic expert is the thought of extracting minerals, even though nobody knows for certain what is buried in the continent.

Delegates at the U.N. debate noted estimates by experts in various countries that there could be up to 45 billion barrels of oil and 3,300 billion cubic metres of gas on the Antarctic continental shelf.

Drilling through the thick ice pack is no simple matter either as the gigantic sheet slides towards the sea at the pace of one metre a day.

"As soon as you get through the ice and start drilling the soil underneath, the strongest drill available today will simply break like a match," one London-based exp-

ert said. Any country can become an active partner by signing the treaty and conducting significant research in the harsh Antarctic conditions.

Members maintain that bringing Antarctica under broader international control, by a body such as the U.N., would introduce uncertainty.

Western analysts say the debate over the future of the area is expected to intensify against a background of international discord over the U.N.'s 1982 Law of the Sea Treaty.

The Reagan administration has led opposition to the sea convention, worked out in years of arduous negotiations, saying it will restrict exploitation of minerals on the deep seabed.

Third World countries are likely to push hard for a piece of the Antarctic cake and to have the continent declared "a common heritage of mankind," the same status which the Law of the Sea Treaty gave the ocean floor.

Forest area covers half of Sweden

STOCKHOLM — OF Sweden's total area of 450,000 square kilometres, 53 per cent consists of forests, 16 per cent of mountains, 11 per cent of bogs, nine per cent of water, eight per cent of agricultural land and three per cent of built-up areas, according to a recent survey of land use published by Statistics Sweden.

The heavy migration to urban areas that took place in the 1960s has now ceased and population growth in these areas is now only one-fifth of what it was then, the survey says. At the same time, however, the acreage of population centres has continued to grow at an undiminished pace. This is due to the fact that the building of one-family houses remained high throughout the 1970s, while the construction of occupant of a one-family house takes up as much space as eight occupants in multi-family houses, the total area of population centres grew by

44,000 hectares between 1975 and 1980, fully 10,000 hectares of which was at the expense of agricultural land.

In the post-war period, agricultural land in Sweden has declined by close on 20 per cent, following the closure of farms and afforestation, the expansion of population centres, etc. The reduction is of about the same scope as the reclamation of land for cultivation during the latter half of the 1800s and the early part of this century, which means that the total area of agricultural land in Sweden today is about the same as it was 100 years ago — three million hectares. Over this period, Sweden's population has nearly doubled to 8.3 million people, but increased yield in farming has made Sweden largely self-sufficient in agricultural products, even with surpluses in some sectors, the survey says.

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U.K. trade surplus with Arab states rises

LONDON (Agencies) — In 1983, the U.K. had a trade surplus with the Arab countries to the value of £3,190 million. This represents an increase of 39 per cent over 1982. By contrast, there was an overall deficit in U.K. trade with the rest of the world amounting to £8,649 million in the same year.

U.K. exports to the Arab countries decreased by 2 per cent last year. However, if Iraq is excluded owing to the disruption in its trade caused by the war, then U.K. exports to the rest of the Arab countries actually increased by 7.5 per cent.

U.K. exports world-wide and to Arab countries were valued at £61,534 million and £5,288 million respectively in 1983. The corresponding figures for 1982 were £55,538 million and £5,423 million.

The composition of British exports to the Arab countries has a very significant feature. About 80 per cent of these exports in 1983 were manufactured products.

These products accounted for less than 60 per cent of British exports to Western Europe and North America. It is noteworthy that for visible exports it is the manufacturing sector which provides the largest employment of manpower.

U.K. exports to Arab countries in 1983 were greater than exports to Latin America, the Socialist countries, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore combined. These countries have a population of over 200 million which is twelve times more than that of the Arab countries.

The three largest importers of British goods among the Arab countries in 1983 were Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman. Their imports were valued at £1,479 million, £568 million and £449 million respectively.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a quiet session and at 1500 the F.T. 30 share index was down 3.3 at 835.6 having touched a record 842.0 at 1000. The 1530 F.T.-S.E. 100 share index was off four points at 1056.7.

Government bonds showed net gains of up to 3/4 point with the fresh fall in money market rates helping sentiment. Earlier official supplies of the 9 1/4 per cent 1998 exchequer tax stock was exhausted.

Barclays bank was 3p off at 519 after annual results. Other banks, industrials and North American stocks were mixed but gold shares rose up to 57 with the bullion price.

Life insurance shares retreated on renewed budget speculation. Sun Life fell 25p to 574 and Legal and General was 9p lower at 474 but composites firmed with gains of about 10p noted in General Accident at 485 and Royal Insurance at 550.

Thorn EMI ended 7p higher at 651 and Blue was 8p up at 443 but ICI was 4p lower at 588 and Glaxo shed 15p to 780. In mixed oils, I.C. Gas was 10p higher at 293.

Natwest Bank was 15p off at 694 ahead of full year results Tuesday and Fisons, also reporting Tuesday, closed 3p up at 737. In the firm mining sector, De Beers firmed 15 cents to 91.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4872/82	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2516/19	Canadian dollars
	2.5715/15	West German marks
	2.9815/25	Dutch guilders
	2.1215/30	Swiss francs
	52.61/64	Belgian francs
	7.9210/30	French francs
	1602.50/1603.50	Italian lire
	224.20/40	Japanese yen
	7.7100/7100	Swedish crowns
	7.4300/4400	Norwegian crowns
	9.4275/4375	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	406.50/407.00	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

"I'm writing a diet book for people with no willpower. The last 25 pages are edible!"

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OCTIX

YASSA

INSECK

PLUTIF

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAPT CHICK RARELY SCARCE

Answer: "Are they exact copies of the place, sir?" — "REPLICAS"

OECD oil demand rises sharply

PARIS (R) — Non-communist world oil demand in the first quarter of 1984 has grown faster than previously expected led by North America and the Pacific, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

In its latest monthly oil market report the Paris-based agency said: "First estimates for first quarter 1984 consumption show a sharp increase of 5.7 per cent for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) area as a whole."

Both North America and the Pacific regions were experiencing colder than normal winters, the IEA said. But for the European region a continuing decline in consumption was expected.

IEA officials said the latest figures based on data from oil companies and Western governments said pressure on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had eased somewhat.

"But we are still looking for a decline in OPEC production starting in March and stretching through the second quarter," one official told Reuters.

The IEA report said latest estimates for OPEC crude oil supply in February were 17.9 million barrels per day (b/d), only slightly down from a revised 18.0 million b/d in January.

This is lower than an average OPEC supply of 18.9 million b/d in the fourth quarter of 1983, but above the OPEC crude quota level of 17.5 million b/d aimed at keeping market prices in line with its market price of \$29 a barrel.

"The largest output drops have occurred in Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf states," the IEA said.

In the first quarter of this year, consumption growth was strongest in North America, up 12 per cent from a year ago at 18.8 million b/d, against 16.8 million b/d in the first three months of 1983.

Consumption in OECD member countries in the Pacific region was up seven per cent at 5.9 million b/d against 5.5 million b/d a year ago.

But OECD Europe first quarter consumption was estimated at nearly three per cent lower at 12.1 million b/d against 12.4 million b/d in the first quarter of 1983.

Non-OPEC oil supply is expected to average 26.4 million b/d through the current first quarter period, the IEA said.

Latest IEA projections put non-communist world oil demand in the second quarter 1984 at 44.1 million b/d, up 2.6 per cent on the same period a year ago.

With non-OPEC supply in the same period put at 26.6 million b/d, demand for OPEC supplies could be as much as one million b/d below the official quota level of 17.5 million b/d. IEA officials said.

This is the main challenge facing the OPEC market monitoring committee meeting in Vienna on March 9.

The market outlook for the OPEC producers depended heavily on how much extra oil was currently being held in stock by companies as a result of the conflict between Iraq and Iran for which there were no IEA estimates, IEA officials said.

Despite the conflict latest IEA projections suggest a world-wide stockdraw of 2.1 million b/d in the first quarter of 1984, of which 1.3 million b/d was from land stocks held in OECD area countries.

The officials added that the stock position had been complicated by a build-up of stocks in tankers by Saudi Arabia's marketing company, Norbec, estimated to total around 50 million barrels or 111 days of Saudi production.

Dollar retreats in hectic trading

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell sharply in hectic trading on European foreign exchanges Monday as last week's downward trend continued unabated.

All major European currencies made gains against the dollar, but dealers said trading was concentrated in the Swiss franc and Japanese yen, which hit a two year high against the American currency.

The dollar's retreat also boosted the price of gold, which has recently regained some of its glitter after falling from favour as a financial haven.

The metal was fixed in London at a five month high of \$406.85 an ounce, up from Friday's close of just under \$399, and dealers said the market now appeared set to move significantly higher.

Foreign exchange dealers said the sudden demand for the yen was being seen as a long awaited reaction to the dollar's recent losses against the mark, while the Swiss franc also had ground to catch up.

Although the yen and Swiss franc were most in demand, the West German mark also opened at its best level against the dollar since last July at 2.5735 marks. It then slipped even lower to 2.5641 before recovering to around 2.57.

The trend towards the yen began with a vengeance in New York on Friday when the dollar tumbled five yen. In Tokyo Monday it hit a two year low amid heavy selling pressure before moving even lower in busy European trading.

Having touched a low in Europe of 223.45 yen and 2.1130 Swiss francs, compared with Friday's close of 2.1520 francs, the dollar strengthened slightly.

Sterling, which has recently benefited from its position as a petro-currency following the recent flare-up of fighting in the Iran-Iraq war, also gained half a cent before falling back a shade to \$1.4873.

Dealers said they saw few factors supporting the dollar in the short-term and expected the yen, long established in the 233 to 235 range against the dollar, to make more gains.

"Pent-up demand for the currency is considerable and Friday's breach of 233 yen clearly opened the floodgates," said Barclays Bank International analyst.

The strength of the sudden spurt in the yen came as a surprise to many Asian dealers who said they had expected only a gradual rise.

They said dealers had decided the mark had received enough attention following the dollar's slump from its high earlier this year of 2.85 marks to around 2.57 marks.

With the dollar in disfavour, the undervalued yen suddenly looks attractive.

Scandals prompt South Korea to reform financial structure

SEOUL (R) — A string of multi-million dollar business scandals in South Korea has prompted the government to introduce reforms of the country's banking system.

President Chun-Doo-Hwan's chief economic advisor, Mr. Sakong II, told reporters the government was strongly committed to reform, particularly control of money lending on the unofficial "Kerb market".

Finance ministry officials acknowledge that during South Korea's big economic drive of the past 20 years, fast-developing manufacturing industries benefited at the expense of the financial sector.

Government planners closely regulated banks to provide key export projects with loans at artificially-low rates.

The ministry now says it will grant bank autonomy by allowing freedom in staff recruitment and shareholders to participate in the decision-making process.

South Korea's toughest problems are corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency and the clandestine operation of the Kerb market.

In the latest of a series of frauds, 29 people, including the former head of a leading bank and 17 other bank officials, were sentenced to up to 15 years jail for their part in the illegal issue of promissory notes worth more than \$200 million.

Twenty-two people, including a former cabinet minister, eight government officials and the head of the Myung Sung group, were convicted in December over another multi-million dollar scandal involving a leading bank, the Commercial Bank of Korea.

And in 1982, a Kerb market racket shook the country's economy, sending several companies to the brink of bankruptcy.

An uncle by marriage of President Chun was jailed for taking bribes in exchange for promising to aid moneylenders' operations. He was later released on bail.

In a bid to rid South Korea of such scandals, Mr. Chun's government introduced a law allowing for the death penalty where bank officials are convicted of taking bribes worth more than 20 million won (\$25,000).

People making illegal fortunes of more than five billion won (about \$6.3 million) through fraud, embezzlement or breach of trust can also be executed.

In addition, the finance ministry strengthened the role of the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination, a watchdog body on banking affairs, and made it independent of the central bank.

Other steps to change the banking structure include the transfer of ownership of five city banks into private hands and agreement on the creation of two new city banks, one of them a joint venture with the Bank of America.

To prevent banks becoming go-betweens for private moneylenders and to attract capital from the unofficial market to the banks, parliament passed a law last December banning anonymous and false name accounts in 1986.

About a quarter of South Korean companies are estimated to use the unofficial money market where they have to pay double or triple the official interest rate, because the official system cannot provide enough funds.

Government officials call its measures revolutionary, but many foreign bankers remain unimpressed.

EC consumer prices rise 0.7% in January

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Consumer prices in the European Community (EC) rose 0.1 per cent in the year to January, up slightly from the 0.0 per cent inflation rate for 1983. The community statistics organisation Eurostat said consumer price inflation during January alone was 0.7 per cent in the 10-nation trading bloc. Official up-to-date information from the Netherlands, Ireland and Italy was not available. Eurostat used its own estimates for Italy and the Netherlands. Eurostat said the highest monthly rises were in Greece (1.2 per cent), Italy (1.2 per cent) and Belgium (0.9 per cent). Britain had a slight fall, caused by reduced prices during new year sales.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime continues to be a time when you can perceive ways to leap forward to new and interesting concepts. Then make practical application of these ideas.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Seek out those interests that appeal to you, and decide if you want to make them part of your life. Be sure to drive carefully.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Listen to suggestions of those you trust and you can make better use of your finest talents. Be practical in the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You want to make the acquaintance of those you admire, but you must be the one to take the initiative.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A bigwig gives good advice so that you gain a more enviable position in your community. Clear your mind of confusion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A little trip to some new place for some worthwhile purpose could result in gaining larger profits. Accept needed changes.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A word or note can show you how to have more romance with your mate. Show that you are a go-getter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Partners will gladly cooperate with you in making necessary changes. Handle a civic affair willingly. Don't take risks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Tackle your duties with greater understanding. Get your health and appearance improved. Show more thought for family.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Use your finest talent in the most intelligent way and it will pay off handsomely at the right time. Enjoy yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Talk over with kin how you would like conditions to be at home. Tonight make needed changes at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be your own individualistic self today and get much accomplished. Get in touch with associates and make plans for the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try some new methods so that you can command a greater income. Contact some bigwig who is willing to give you fine pointers.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can easily understand the profit to be made with ideas and projects and should have the benefit of a fine academic education and also learn the importance of being ethical. Make sure diet is right.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword

by R.M. McWhirk

ACROSS

1 Freshwater fish

5 Paper fastener

9 Slip over

14 Java tree

15 Mother of Helen of Troy

16 Uncanny

17 TV crew member

19 Macaw

20 Three: it

21 Oriental nurse

22 Black eye

23 Cattle

25 Backyard call

27 Dame Myra

29 Period of sultry weather

33 Change copy

36 Letter opener

37 Arthur of TV

38 Mine entrance

39 "We all?"

41 Scoria from St. Helena

42 Boulder

43 Touched

44 Cafe

46 Refugees

48 Unicorn

49 Listen

51 Exchanges

55 Christmas songs

58 "The — on the Floss"

60 Regret

61 Accumulate

62 Strongly-flavored cheese

64 "Le — d'Arthur"

65 Needle case

66 "— a man with..."

67 Musical mark

68 Drones and workers

69 Edible root

DOWN

1 Tubes

2 Not together

3 Carved gem

4 Heiress's direction

5 — chowder

6 WWII USAF General and family

7 Baking potato

8 Peter — as a day...

9 Porpoises

10 Punctuation mark

11 Oil country

12 Cash in Calabria

13 Limerick man

18 Garden scrapers

22 Curtail

24 Pert miss

26 Norse god

28 Glues

30 Efficient

31 Calendar span

32 Like mint

33 Marathon

34 Hard cheese

35 "Venl, —"

36 Place

38 Hazard

40 Menu item

43 Large inland water body

45 Passageway

47 Phantoms

48 Sole

50 Ham it up

52 Fragrance

53 Freer from pollution

54 Fight

55 Tent life

56 Cupid

57 "What is so —"

59 San Onispo

62 Insurgent, for short

63 In good health

Peanuts

WHAT DO THEY CALL THIS, MARCIE? A "YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT"?

HOW DO I KNOW I'M GOING TO LIKE THIS KIND OF MUSIC?

SHH...THE CONDUCTOR IS COMING OUT...WE'RE SUPPOSED TO APPLAUD...

WHY? HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING YET

Mutt 'n' Jeff

I LOVE WHEN YOU HUNT FOR DEER, YOU HAVE TO BE VERY QUIET AND VERY CAREFUL!

RIGHT?

WAM

ERR...MUTT, IS A DEER A BLACK AND WHITE ANIMAL WITH FOUR LEGS THAT GOES MOOOOO?

Andy Capp

LET'S SEE, NOW WHAT'S A HALF OF THAT...?

... I'VE LOST TWENTY EIGHT POUNDS —!

BUT...

DON'T YOU SPOIL IT?

Over 99 per cent of Soviet voters endorse candidates

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Over 99 per cent of the Soviet Union's 160 million voters turned out Sunday to endorse candidates approved by the Communist Party in elections to the Supreme Soviet, the country's formal parliament.

The elections, held every five years, were marked by a swelling campaign of public praise for Konstantin Chernenko, appointed party chief three weeks ago after the death of Yuri Andropov.

In speeches and broadcasts, public meetings and the press, Mr. Chernenko, 72, has been hailed for his wisdom, authority, intelligence, knowledge, leadership qualities and humanity.

Western diplomats compared the mounting personal tributes with those once lavished on the late President Leonid Brezhnev, who groomed Mr. Chernenko as his chosen heir.

The new leader's style contrasts with the more modest public profile adopted by Mr. Andropov in his 15 months in office.

After devoting 20 minutes to interviews with electors praising Mr. Chernenko Sunday night, state television news reported that first returns showed over 99 per cent of voters had visited the polls.

It was assumed they almost unanimously endorsed the 1,500 official candidates to the Soviet's 1,500 seats.

The state devotes massive resources to mobilising the electorate. A blanket media campaign urging "everyone to the polls" is accompanied by visits to every elector from local "agitators" and pep talks at places of work.

Television showed voters trooping to polling stations in the big cities, arriving by Reindeer sled to vote in the far north and casting their ballots aboard ships of the country's big merchant fleet.

Cosmonaut Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovoyov and Oleg Atkov, orbiting the earth since Feb. 8, voted by radio and paid tribute to Mr. Chernenko in a television appearance.

The Kremlin chief, a candidate like all members of the leadership, voted at his local central Moscow polling station, accompanied by his wife Anna.

Mrs. Chernenko had not previously been seen in public.

The estimated 175 million eligible Soviet voters are not legally required to go to the polls, but those who don't face censure at the workplace or school, and turnout has exceeded 90 per cent for the last 40 years.

Evening broadcasts on government television said the turnout was 99.5 per cent in the Russian Republic, which includes Moscow and is the most populous in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Similar high turnouts were reported in other areas.

Mr. Chernenko, who voted in northeastern Moscow, was shown

on Soviet television wishing election workers "great successes." His vote went to Soviet Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, who represents all Moscow, and to Natalya Orlova, a textile worker in her late 20s, who represents his district.

In each district across the vast Soviet Union, voters were electing two deputies, one to each of the houses of the Supreme Soviet. Not all deputies are party members — in fact non-party members made up 28 per cent of the outgoing parliament — but party endorsement is essential for every candidate.

Candidates are selected by trade unions, the Young Communist League, work collectives and local party bodies and the nominations submitted to district party offices before being "endorsed" at workplaces.

There is no Soviet law prohibiting more than one candidate for each seat, but because the nominating process is tightly controlled, no such opposition emerges on the ballot.



Dimitri Ustinov.

Soviets seek to expand military ties with India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Ustinov said Monday his nation wants to expand a military cooperation with India because both countries "work for peace."

"We have different social systems but both of us live in peace and have been working for peace," Marshal Ustinov told reporters on his arrival at the New Delhi Military Airport.

It is "useful and needed" that the Soviet Union expand military cooperation with India, he said, expressing hope that his talks with Indian government officials "will bring good results" as he said they had in the past.

Marshal Ustinov, making his second visit here as defence minister, came aboard an Ilyushin-62 Aeroflot aircraft which landed at 11.00 a.m. (0530 GMT). He was received by Indian Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman and other military officials.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Venkataraman said that Marshal Ustinov's visit soon after a change in Soviet leadership "shows the interest and importance the Soviet Union attaches to India."

Indian security forces given unlimited powers

NEW DELHI (R) — Paramilitary forces in India's troubled Punjab state patrolled the region's hardest-hit districts Monday with new unlimited powers intended to defuse Sikh-Hindu tensions.

The state government, which is under direct rule from Delhi, said security forces had the right to enter religious places such as Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

"Information has been reaching the government of the storage of arms and ammunition and of the use of religious places in this area as sanctuaries for the law breakers," the announcement said.

Security forces also had the right to arrest anyone or stop and search any vehicle, it said.

A Punjab government spokesman told reporters heavily-armed paramilitary forces in the districts of Karpurthala, Gurdaspur and Amritsar now had "unlimited powers" to deal effectively with civil violence in which 90 people have died this year.

Political analysts said the new

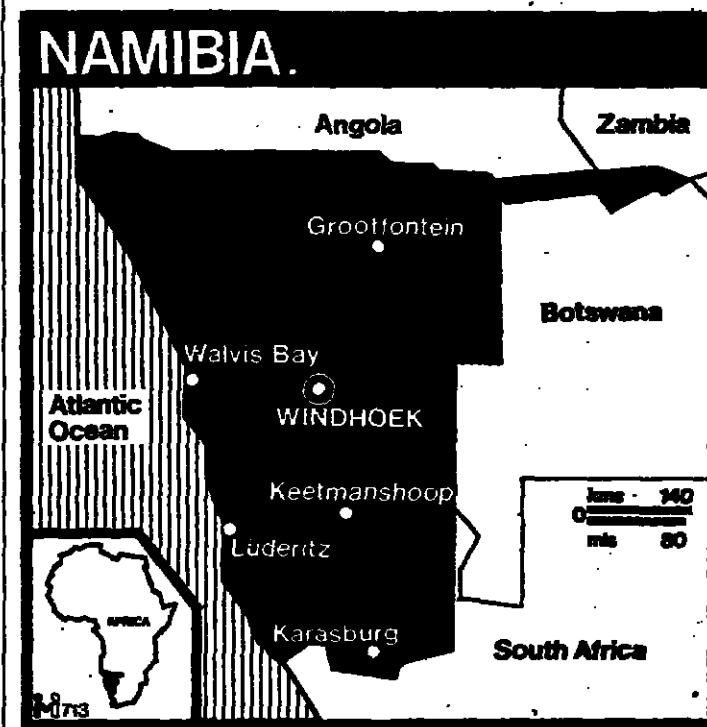
powers drastically raised the stakes in the confrontation between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Sikh leaders demanding greater autonomy for Punjab, a prosperous farming state bordering Pakistan.

Paramilitary forces were sent to Punjab five months ago when Mrs. Gandhi sacked the state government of her own Congress (I) Party and imposed presidential rule after Sikh extremists started attacking the state's minority Hindu community.

But until now only state police had been empowered to enter religious places.

The analysts said that if Mrs. Gandhi tried to weed out extremists hiding in temples paramilitary forces would have to spearhead the raids because only they had the weapons and training to cope with the likely bitter reaction.

Sikh political leader Harchand Singh Longowal, head of the Akali Dal Party, denounced the measures as an attempt to repress Sikhs and lower their morale.



Anglicans accuse S. Africa of creating fear in Namibia

LONDON (R) — People in Namibia (South West Africa) live in perpetual fear and suspicion caused by the huge armed presence of South African forces, Anglican churchmen said Monday.

They said property destruction, abduction and beatings made Namibians fear South Africa's Defence Force (SADF) and Koevoet, its counter-insurgency unit, far more than they fear guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

The charge comes from six churchmen drawn from around the world who visited Namibia last October at the request of the bishop of Namibia.

In their report published Monday, the churchmen urge the Anglican Church World Community to stimulate international pressure on South Africa to withdraw its forces and comply with the United Nations demand for an independent Namibia.

"It appears to us that SWAPO has overwhelming support (in Namibia), not least from the main-line churches and their leaders," the six said, adding that independence was the firm desire of Namibians.

The delegation met community leaders, teachers, doctors, nurses and clergymen as well as managers of mining companies and the administrator-general of the territory, at whose invitation they toured SADF bases in the war zone.

"The majority of those interviewed has no doubt that South Africa would defy international opinion and continue the occupation of Namibia," the report says.

The delegation detected a "disturbing and profound scepticism among Namibians about the reality and determination of diplomatic pressure on South Africa."

Many Namibians told them "the shadow of apartheid was being cast over the country."

It was obvious that the current system and structure was inadequate for the urgent task of providing full and equal education for Namibians, which was paramount for independence, the report said.

The delegates said an independent Namibia would have to include Walvis Bay, its only deep water port.

Teenage girl to speak for first time

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A teenage girl will soon "speak" for the first time, using a push-button machine with a voice borrowed from another girl, Tracy Bates, 15, who was left speechless by a virus infection when she was a baby.

is to have a pocket-size microchip voice-synthesiser which speaks in her local accent, built by a team of experts at the Communications Aid Centre in West Bromwich near here. Bio-engineer Dr. Clive Thurstfield, who leads the team, said: "We want Tracy to regard the voice as her own. We went to a great deal of trouble to find the right voice with the right accent."

The machine will have a vocabulary of some 250 words and by pushing numbered buttons, Tracy will be able to construct and "speak"

'Officials stole buried treasure'

WACO, Texas (AP) — A lawyer says he's determined to keep local officials from "stealing" nearly \$1 million from two men whose rag-to-riches dream was shattered by a U.S. Supreme Court decision last week.

James Dean Bridges, then 15, and Percy Garcia, then 16, dug up \$500,000 in alleged gold money buried on a farm near the south Texas town of Alice in 1977. The youths bought a car and were on their way to Chicago when police in Waco stopped them for running a red light and confiscated the money. The high court's decision not to hear the young men upheld a lower court's ruling that awarded the money, which has trickled into \$965,460 in interest-bearing accounts, to McLennan County.

While officials were considering the most effective way to put the money to use, Bridges' lawyer was trying to devise a plan so the men could keep the money.

Scientists to grow trees from old plums

WYE, England (AP) — Scientists are trying to grow trees from plum pits recovered from the wreck of the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship which sank nearly 440 years ago. "We are trying to propagate trees using tissue culture techniques," said fruit expert Peter Dodd, who is in charge of the experiment at Wye College in Kent about 112 kilometres southeast of London.

"This has been taking place for two months. Nothing has happened yet — but we are still hoping," Dodd said Sunday. More than 100 plum pits were recovered among the treasures on the Mary Rose, which sank in the English channel in 1545 as it sailed out to fight the French. Dodd said so far he had cracked open five pits and found some completely degenerated but others appearing in good condition, having retained their flesh covering. Two samples — of greengage and myrobalan varieties — are being used in test-tube experiments, he said. If the experiments are successful, Dodd said the trees that are grown will be presented to the Mary Rose Trust that raised funds to raise the wreck from the sea bed in 1982.

The Mary Rose is now in drydock in Portsmouth where archaeologists are reconstructing its interior and exterior.

'More Irish support divorce'

DUBLIN (AP) — A growing number of men and women in Ireland want divorce to be legalised, an opinion poll published Sunday found. The Irish Marketing Survey Poll for RTE, the Irish Republic's national television and radio service, found 46 per cent in favour of legalising divorce and 40 per cent opposed. A decade ago, a similar poll showed that two-thirds of those questioned would vote against a change in the divorce law in a referendum. The latest poll found 68 per cent backing divorce in cases where one partner had been found guilty of cruelty. The size of the poll was not announced. Divorce in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Ireland is banned under the constitution but an all-party parliamentary committee is currently examining marital breakdown.

Women's Affairs Minister Nuala Fennell said Sunday that all political parties and legislators should examine the poll carefully and "respond responsibly."

ESA launches largest civilian telecom satellite

PARIS (R) — The European Space Agency's Ariane rocket underlined its claim as a major contender in the booming commercial space market Monday when a perfect launch put the world's largest civilian telecommunications satellite into orbit.

The gleaming 42-metre (137-foot) high rocket blasted off from its jungle launchpad in French Guiana on schedule at 0050 GMT and afterwards a jubilant agency official at the tracking station at Evry near Paris told Reuters: "Superb. The best-ever launch. No breaks, no incidents, the countdown was perfect."

Some 16 minutes after lift-off the 1,870 kilogramme Intelsat V-F-N orbiter, capable of handling 12,000 simultaneous telephone calls and two colour television channels, separated from the rocket.

It will be nudged into a fixed orbit 145 kilometres above the earth over the next few days.

The launch was the eighth in the Ariane series, and followed last October's successful launch of another V-series orbiter for the 108-nation Washington-based International Satellite Telecommunications Organisation.

Monday's launch, in perfect weather, delighted European Space Agency (ESA) officials because they were able to use the first of three available "windows"

in space, unlike last October when a technical hitch delayed attempts to hit the first slot.

A "window" represents the optimum chance for the launcher to put the satellite in the correct position for its orbit.

Ariane's success follows the failure of the two satellites launched by last U.S. space shuttle mission.

Deputy Technical Director of the Ariane Launch Programme Daniel Mugnier said: "Now it has become a routine for us. We have acquired the industrial technique. Had the wind been stronger, we could not have launched, but weather conditions were perfect for this time of the year."

"This was the best launch we have ever had," he added.

A spokesman for Ariane space, the commercial organisation set up to market Ariane as a commercial launcher on behalf of the 11-nation ESA, said they now had a firm order book worth 6.1 billion francs (\$762 million).

"This represents 27 satellites for 14 different clients, and 40 per cent of them are outside Europe."

Ariane's next launch is scheduled for May, when it will put the Spacenet civil telecommunications satellite for a private United States customer.

In July a more powerful Ariane III rocket will put two satellites into orbit at once, both for European customers.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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IMPLICIT FAITH

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 108
♥ Q 10965432
♦ Void
WEST EAST
♠ 4 ♠ Q75
♥ Q 109765 ♥ K4
♦ K8 ♦ J
♠ A K Q 6 ♠ J875432

SOUTH
♠ A9632
♥ A832
♦ A7
♠ 109
The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Dbble 4 ♠ 5 ♠
Dbble Pass 5 ♥ Dbble
Rdbble Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

In the mid-'70s, Giorgio Belladonna and Benito Garozzo were generally regarded as the world's best pair. This hand won the "Hand of the Year" award for Benito in 1974.

We won't go into all the details of the auction here—we don't have the room. Suffice it to say that once Garozzo opened one spade, showing a hand of fewer than 17 points,

Belladonna never bothered to show his eight-card suit (that might have led to an easy slam in diamonds) but pressed on to six spades despite only 7 high-card points.

Garozzo was forced to ruff the opening lead. He now had to establish and run diamonds while picking up trumps. The optimists among us might try cashing two high spades, but declarer realized that West's takeout double made it likely that he was short in spades. So at trick two he ran dummy's jack of spades.

When that succeeded, declarer abandoned trumps in favor of leading a diamond to the ace and a diamond back. West won the king and forced dummy again with a club. Declarer ruffed and this was the position:

NORTH
♠ K
♥ J
♦ Q 109654
WEST EAST
♠ — ♠ Q7
♥ Q 109765 ♥ K
♦ A6 ♦ —
♠ J8754

SOUTH
♠ A963
♥ A832
♦ —
♠ —

Declarer simply began to run dummy's long diamonds. East could ruff whenever he wished, but declarer would simply overruff and then get back to the table with the king of trumps, in the process drawing East's last trump, and continue taking all the discards he needed on the long diamonds.

Sri Lankan guerrillas kill 3 more Tamil youths

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist guerrillas Sunday night shot dead three more minority Tamil youths in the northern Jaffna district as part of a campaign to eliminate "anti-social elements", police said.

The shootings brought the number of Tamil youths killed by guerrillas to nine in the past five days, a police officer in Jaffna told Reuters.

He said the guerrillas, the

mselves Tamils, apparently believed the victims were stealing or extorting money on the pretext of helping the guerrilla movement which is fighting for a separate Tamil state.

Placards were found near some of the bodies saying "you are an anti-social element. This is the punishment," he said.

The first victim's bullet-ridden body was found last Wednesday tied to a lamp post.

499 Bangladeshi election candidates withdraw

DHAKA (R) — Opposition attempts to disrupt rural elections called by the Bangladesh military government gathered momentum Monday when election authorities announced the withdrawal of 499 candidates.

The two main alliances of opposition parties announced at the weekend that elections would be held "over our dead bodies" and declared that March 24, the proposed date for the polls, would be a "black day."

The alliance said the number of

withdrawals would have been much larger if candidates had not been prevented from taking back their papers.

The opposition, headed by Sheikh Hasina Wazed and Begum Khaleda Zia, have called for a boycott of the rural elections, saying the poll would create a new power base for military ruler Hossein Mohammad Ershad.

They said the elections were designed to delay a transition to democracy and to frustrate other opposition demands which in-

clude the holding of parliamentary elections before the rural polls.

Gen. Ershad has said the rural elections would help establish democracy at the grass roots and described those who opposed them as cowards who were afraid of facing the voters.

Opposition groups sponsored a general strike last Thursday in support of their campaign against the elections and declared the success of the stoppage showed that Gen. Ershad had no popular support.

Greens set out to mend Europe's ills

KARLSRUHE (R) — After just a year in national politics, West Germany's environmentalist Greens Party Monday prepared an assault on the European Community, branding it a community of "bureaucracy, bombs and butter mountains."

The party ended a weekend Congress Sunday calling for an end to nuclear arms and atomic power, an exit from NATO, and measures to restore ecological balance and regional autonomy.

These policies will form the basis of a campaign by 15 candidates selected to run in June 17 elections to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, where the Greens have no seats.

Party sources said the Greens, a mostly middle-class party dominated by the under-30s, hope to capture at least five or six places in Strasbourg. Candidates said the

campaign heralded the beginning of a pan-European environmental movement that would make the continent "green."

The congress avoided discussion of the report from its 27 Bonn deputies warning that the party urgently needed internal reforms. It issued a closing statement that was clearly defensive.

"Contrary to all the high-pitched media expectations of a divided and chaotic congress, the special federal assembly of the Greens Party this weekend produced a picture of productive unanimity. The 'great split' that many talked about and wanted to write about did not materialise," the statement said.

Some of the party's federal deputies, who took a back seat during the two days of debate, regretted their warning was not being aired and said the party was sto-

ring up trouble.

Since emerging as a political force at provincial level in 1979, Greens have gathered disparate forces into a movement that draws protest votes from right and left.

But the strains have never been far below the surface. The "great split" has loomed larger since the party lost the unifying power of its anti-nuclear missile campaign when West Germany went ahead with deployment of U.S. missiles last December regardless of mass protest rallies.

Political pragmatists within the Greens' top ranks advocate a policy of compromise with other established parties in order to win a share of real power in government.

But, judging by the mood of the congress, the party rank and file are not yet ready to water down their beliefs.

German arms industry under fire over gun-running charges

By Ralph Boulton

Reuter

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — West Germany's high-powered arms industry, its exports booming, is coming under heavy fire over charges of illegal gun-running.

Three employees of the Rheinmetall Arms Firm face trial this summer, charged with flouting state curbs on sales to non-NATO countries. They face sentences of up to five years if convicted of supplying guns illegally to Saudi Arabia and Argentina.

Critics accuse the arms industry of riding roughshod over government controls, designed to keep Bonn out of non-European conflicts and lay the ghost of Germany's military past.

A Bonn parliamentary committee heard recently that West German arms exports had risen almost tenfold in the last decade, while United States sales rose 35 per cent and Soviet exports by 65 per cent. West German arms had surfaced in almost every major conflict during the 1980s.

But arms firms seeking the same freedom as NATO rivals to sell their wares argue their exports were so low a decade ago that the figures are deceptive. Though rising fast, West Germany is still only fifth in the world league of arms

sellers. Arms companies feel the Rheinmetall executives have been caught in a minefield of vague regulations. "This case is important for the whole industry," a Rheinmetall official said.

"Bonn must decide in the end if it can hold firms responsible when weapons supplied legally to 'approved' countries are passed on to others, as happened here," he added.

One former Rheinmetall employee has also been charged and others are being investigated in a wide-ranging police inquiry.

Export controls, gradually refined since the Western allies allowed arms production to resume in the 1950s, now permit sales to the Third World from factories in West Germany only if "vital national interests" are at stake.

This vague provision has prompted firms to seek legal loopholes that have caused Bonn serious political headaches.

One of West Germany's biggest arms dealers, who asked not to be named, described the controls in an interview as grossly unfair, but added: "I can get the goods where I want them."

"Why do we Germans make ourselves smaller than we are? Whatever the past, we now have the same duties as our allies, so why shouldn't we allow ourselves

the same rights?" he said.

"When my British friend Freddy pulls off a major arms deal he becomes Sir Freddy, but when I do the same the government likes the trade but would rather not know."

Economic pressure is a key factor in eroding controls on an industry employing some 200,000 people.

Disaster for Britain

The trend began in the 1970s when Bonn gave the go-ahead for delivery of submarines and patrol boats to Argentina and Chile in a bid to help ailing shipbuilders.

Destroyers have since followed, but there is still an allied ban on bigger ships.

The venture almost brought disaster for Britain in its 1982 Falklands war with Argentina. Naval sources in Bonn said a West German-built submarine located the key British aircraft carrier Invincible and could have torpedoed it but for a crew error.

Argentina's use of French-built Exocet missiles in sinking British ships in the South Atlantic illustrated a major flaw in the restrictions. The missiles were guided to their targets by West German electronics.

Joint projects with NATO allies, which now account for a large proportion of production, can esc-

ape West German controls. A major example was the FH-70 Howitzer, developed with Italy and Britain.

When Saudi Arabia asked to buy the gun, Bonn waived its objections and allowed delivery. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government could face similar decisions on the new Tornado combat plane and a host of other joint projects.

"The German restrictions can be a complication in joint ventures, but they are becoming less so," a NATO diplomat said.

The recent visit by a Saudi Arabian military team to view heavy arms seemed to mark a further landmark in export policy. Mr. Kohl, despite strong Israeli protests, has told the Saudi Arabians they can buy "defensive" arms.

Arms industry sources said the Saudi team returned home without expressing any preferences. But Riyadh's shopping list is expected to include the Leopard anti-aircraft tank.

Leopard-2 strictly controlled

The Saudi government would like to buy high-powered Leopard-2 battle tanks worth more than five million marks (\$1.94 million) each, but Mr. Kohl vetoed the sale, which will now probably go to the U.S.

traditionally the most highly-prized German weapon, remain strictly controlled, especially to areas of tension such as the Middle East.

But the Munich firm Krauss-Maffei fuelled the controversy last month when it said Egypt had expressed interest in building tanks under West German licence.

Controls on selling arms "made-in-Germany" have turned the West German arms industry into one of the world's biggest suppliers of production licences.

West German arms made overseas, from rifles to tanks, have found buyers all over the world. The independent Stockholm International Peace Research Institute told the Bonn parliamentary committee that tanks made in Brazil under West German licence were being used on both sides in the Iran-Iraq war.

"The transfer of technology may have done more to advance the arms industry in developing countries than direct exports could have done," the institute said.

Middle Eastern interest in West German arms has sparked a flood of media stories warning against "opening the floodgates."

Government officials insist the present restrictions are fair if applied wisely and say they plan no change in policy.